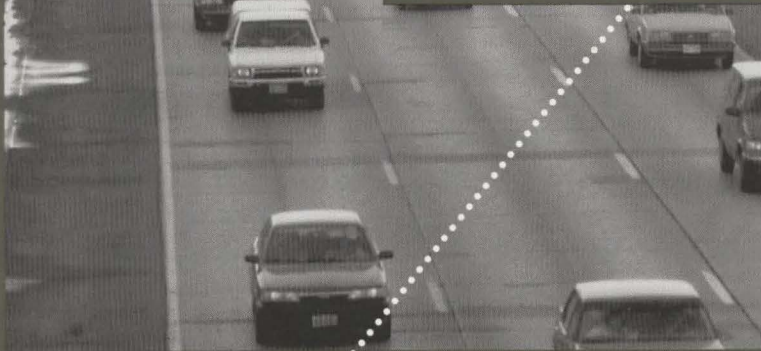




## **CURA UPDATE '97**

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# **CURA UPDATE '97**

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Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

## **CURA RESOURCE COLLECTION**

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs  
University of Minnesota  
330 Humphrey Center

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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# INTRODUCTION



In CURA's last update (1994), we described our recent activities in the context of "University 2000," the University of Minnesota's major re-examination of its fundamental teaching, research, and outreach missions. University 2000 continues to be the University's road map for the future but many changes are occurring both inside and outside the institution. The University will soon have a new president and already has several new regents. For the first time in many years the state's strong economy has produced revenue surpluses, allowing the governor and legislature to consider public policy issues in a less stressful fiscal environment. The impact of recent major changes in federal and state welfare policy are only beginning to be felt. And there is renewed concern for "urban sprawl," the movement of people and activities out and away from our urban centers, and for sprawl's social, financial, and environmental costs.

CURA recently published *CURA After 25 Years*, a look back at our history and our story. We noted there that the basic idea behind CURA is simple and it's never changed: get the resources of a great university—its faculty and students—involved with working on problems facing the state of Minnesota, and give faculty and students exciting research opportunities at the same time. An organization like CURA is essential at the University of Minnesota because it is a leading research university, it has a strong land grant commitment, and it has a strong urban mission.



CURA's particular emphasis is the range of problems and issues associated with urbanization—the increasing density and diversity of people and activities as they occur in communities across Minnesota. Typically this includes housing, environment and energy, economic development, land use and population change, neighborhood and community concerns, tensions among races and ethnic groups, human services, education, and governmental change.

The report that follows briefly describes many of the 247 projects CURA has undertaken during the 1994-96 fiscal years, involving 60 faculty from 37 departments or programs, 180 graduate students from 35 departments, and 19 state agencies, 23 local government agencies, and 164 community organizations. Some of these projects are small, some large; some involve research that is more basic, some more applied; and some are primarily technical assistance. Almost all CURA projects are done in cooperation with those in the state needing University assistance. Through these programs and projects CURA integrates the teaching, research, and outreach that are the fundamental missions of the University of Minnesota.

Other special projects in the past two years have included a thorough program review under the auspices of the University's Vice President for Research, establishment of a CURA Web site, and publication of what may be the last paper versions of our environmental and planning course guides and our directory of nonprofit organizations of people of color. In the future, these publications will be available electronically on our Web site and will be periodically corrected and updated on the site.

In addition, we have established strong new formal relationships with the Minnesota Extension Service and are collaboratively supporting several projects. And we are actively involved with Twin Cities neighborhood organizations through projects supported by the U.S. Department of Education and the McKnight Foundation.

While looking back whether for two years or twenty-five years is interesting, the important challenges lie ahead. Community groups and public agencies increasingly face the problem of being able to assess what they do and demonstrate its value. The University can play an important role in helping shape and guide these assessments and CURA has already begun to develop its evaluation skills and capacities. Welfare reform will have significant consequences for the people and communities of the state as it is implemented and CURA will help design and support projects that address the consequences of these changes. CURA's role in "sprawl" related issues will expand with projects involving transportation, housing, and infrastructure development. And CURA will continue to be involved in a variety of projects helping neighborhoods and communities strengthen their capacity to shape their own destinies.

CURA's role in the next few years as in the past twenty-five, will be to help support specific community and University projects that address these issues. Those interested in further information are invited to call CURA at 612/625-1551 or visit our Web page at <http://www.umn.edu/cura>.

CURA connects University faculty and students with the organizations and public institutions working on significant community issues in Minnesota. CURA helps: faculty and students produce more relevant research on critical issues; students strengthen their education through practical experience; government agencies and community organizations get the assistance they request; and the University of Minnesota fulfill its land grant and urban missions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Thomas M. Scott, Director  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs



# COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS



## ★ Twin Cities on the Decline?

Is the rapid expansion of concentrated poverty in the Twin Cities a sign that the area is on a path of decline? To find out, a professor of geography and two graduate students compared trends in the Twin Cities with trends in ten other large metropolitan areas. They examined changes between 1970 and 1990 by looking at five indicators of urban decline: the population of people living in poverty, households receiving public assistance, families and subfamilies headed by women, high school dropouts, and unemployed or underemployed men. They found that the Twin Cities is in better shape on most of the measures studied than are several comparable areas. High levels of welfare dependency, however, are well above average in the Twin Cities. Certain problems seem to be common to all large metropolitan areas. Whether these constitute decline in any particular metro area can be determined only within the context of the place in question. The research resulted in an article published in the *CURA Reporter* and in a monograph in the series of census publications generated by CURA on *What the 1990 Census Says about Minnesota*.

## ★ Training Programs for Neighborhood Organizers.

High quality organizers are hard to find. The Neighborhood Revitalization Program asked CURA to initiate a program to train neighborhood organizers. Trainees attend seminars conducted by CURA staff and serve in supervised internships in designated Minneapolis neighborhoods in order to develop organizing skills and help build more effective neighborhood organizations. The program, supported by Hennepin County, has received very positive feedback from all of those involved. Many neighborhoods have expressed a desire to receive an intern. The program also provides training, in small group settings, for current organizer staff as well as monthly hands-on workshops

for neighborhood staff and community leaders on topics chosen by the participants.

## ★ Nonprofits in Changing Times.

One of the country's leading experts on nonprofit organizations is a professor at the University of Minnesota. He is examining the managerial changes undergone by nonprofits as a result of more austere economic conditions. How have they modified their management styles to survive, and

needed to measure the impact of their community development initiatives. CURA funded a graduate student to survey neighborhood concerns about safety, crime prevention, and property values. This benchmark survey was completed last year and combined with other data to provide a starting point from which the neighborhoods can measure progress on a variety of fronts. A follow-up survey next year will determine whether residents perceive that conditions have gotten better or worse.



as survivors, what effect have greater levels of financial accountability and quality control had on their way of doing business? A grant from CURA helped the professor finish collecting the data for the project, and a book-length monograph, *Nonprofit Organizations in the Age of Uncertainty: A Study in Growth and Decline*, will be published in 1997.

★ **Neighborhood Concerns on the East Side.** The Railroad Island Task Force and the East Side Neighborhood Task Force of St. Paul

## ★ Immigrants and Radicals in Duluth.

A professor writing a history of Duluth recruited students from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, to study the origins of the Farmer Labor Party in northeast Minnesota. Their work, funded by the Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32), documented the rise of the labor movement among Minnesota's European immigrants and produced evidence of an earlier inception date for Duluth's Farmer Labor Party than previous investigations had shown.



## ✱ Neighborhood Organizations

**Online.** Twin Cities neighborhoods are using the Internet more than any other place in the country. They use it to communicate with people inside a neighborhood, to discuss problems across neighborhoods, and to find information that helps deal with critical issues. This is the result of a three-year effort by Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (see page 33) to assist organizations in getting connected to the Internet, to support discussions about neighborhood issues on the Twin Cities Freenet, and to place enough information on the Web to make it worthwhile learning the system. Fifty-two neighborhoods are now connected to the Internet, twenty-two have Web sites, fifty-five NPCR research

## ✱ Evaluating the NRP Election.

Neighborhood representatives are elected to the policy board of Minneapolis' Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), a twenty million dollars per year effort. By 1995 the election process included numerous candidate forums run by the League of Women Voters, with a final forum and vote involving designated neighborhood electors. CURA was asked to evaluate this new system and found that it did indeed encourage more candidates and more neighborhood participation. However, several areas that needed improvement were discussed, including unnecessary time demands on electors and lack of clarity over whether electors should confer with their neighborhood board before deciding on their vote.



## ✱ Media Isolation on Minnesota's Borders.

Outside of the metropolitan areas, many Minnesotans find their selection of news sources limited. Do they have adequate access to local news and news about Minnesota? A CURA-sponsored graduate student in geography studied the flow of news in

reports have been published online, and more than 170 neighborhood activists subscribe to the online neighborhood discussions. An article about the project will appear in the *CURA Reporter*.

✱ **Data to the People.** Community groups need access to information to document local problems and garner the resources to address them. A number of community information providers have evolved across the country and CURA helped organize a special Citizens Access Day forum at the 1994 URISA conference in Milwaukee so they could share their stories. The discussions were useful to all concerned, especially people from the Twin Cities. Results have been summarized in a recent article in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

pairs of communities near Minnesota's borders. He found Fargo's media working hard to present news about both Minnesota and North Dakota, but media in the other cities tended to exclude the neighboring state. Political boundaries are a significant news barrier, although their impact is mitigated by patterns of commerce and population distributions. Radio stations were found to be most aggressive in crossing state borders. Local news tends to come from the community where it is produced. Only Austin, Duluth, Mankato, Rochester, and the Twin Cities broadcast locally-produced television news in Minnesota. An article about the study appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

## ✱ Minnesota's Folk Legends.

Anthropologists know how important folk legends and traditions have been in

shaping community identities through time. This shaping effect is evident in Minnesota, as well. The Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32), supported an anthropologist from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, to study Minnesota's folklore and the way in which it helps Minnesota communities define themselves. Her report focused on three types of folk legends: stories that help teenagers address fears about life and death, stories related to landmarks and town names, and American Indian legends about Minnesota towns and sites.

## ✱ The Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization

(NPCR) program (see page 33) funded a number of projects related to communities and neighborhoods in Minneapolis.

**Hale School Redesign.** Officials of the Minneapolis Board of Education wanted Hale School to better serve the community and its students. A University of Minnesota professor working with a Hamline professor helped direct four students (two in architecture, one in child psychology, and one in education) in assessing the building and its uses, and in creating a reasonable redesign plan for the aging facility. The group's work led to the formation of a studio workshop in which ten architecture students created building design models based on the overall needs assessment. Working in tandem with the facility assessment group, the Hamline professor involved school staff, students, parents, and neighbors in the process. Both the report and the design models convinced officials to formally approve Hale School's redesign along the lines proposed. Support for this project came from the Minneapolis Board of Education; the Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake Community Association; and NPCR.

**Linden Hills Library.** The Minneapolis Library Board targeted the Linden Hills Library for expansion, and sought ideas from a community committee. The committee couldn't agree on a single plan. A graduate student surveyed the entire service area of the library and the survey results compelled the committee members to set aside their differences.



They rejected the library board's original plan and instead, working with architects, designed a compromise plan, which has been approved.

**Windom Neighborhood History.** A graduate student interviewed older residents and produced a fifty-page booklet tracing the neighborhood's history. The

confronts. It offers specific information concerning hiring, supervising, and organizing at the community level. It also provides a checklist of legal obligations for neighborhood associations, and includes tax forms, blank legal forms, and an exhaustive treatment of issues ranging from workers compensation to sexual harassment.

5 to 10 percent of the funds to "community service" jobs. In the past, the Minneapolis Urban Corps has helped place students in off-campus community service jobs. But the corps closed in January 1996. CURA supported a graduate student to investigate University of Minnesota procedures and resources for placing students in work-study programs. The purpose of the study was to see if CURA might serve as a facilitator for students seeking off-campus community service opportunities. Partly as a result of the study, CURA now acts as the University liaison for community organizations seeking student researchers and for student researchers seeking work with community organizations.

#### ✱ **Boulevards and Parkways.**

Thin sections of the Minneapolis Park System are being overwhelmed by increasingly heavy use. The area between Lakes Calhoun and Harriet was studied by a professor of landscape architecture with the help of a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30). He wanted to see if a better balance could be created between conservation of the park system's resources and the many uses that people make of it. He proposed making use of the natural features of the landscape to segregate different types of traffic in the area while at the same time emphasizing its ecological features. His work inspired some new thinking among those working on redesign plans for the city's lakes. An article detailing his proposal appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

#### ✱ **Greater Minnesota Faculty Workshops.**

CURA sponsors workshops designed to stimulate interest in research relating to greater Minnesota. The meetings involve faculty from a number of University departments and focus on a wide variety of issues. Recent workshops have discussed challenges to Minnesota's smaller school districts, cooperation and collaboration among local governments, and retaining and expanding businesses. In 1995, faculty attending the workshops requested a survey of all University faculty to find out what policy issues were currently being researched. Results of the survey were published (*Inventory of Public Policy Research Related to Greater Minnesota*) giving information about 120 research projects.



Windom Community Council has already sold between two and three hundred copies of the booklet, earning enough money to offset the costs of production, while at the same time promoting the neighborhood.

**Personnel Manual for Neighborhood Organizers.** A comprehensive personnel and group management manual for neighborhood organizers was written by a volunteer group of organizers who were involved in CURA's organizer training program (see page 1). An NPCR-supported student helped put the material into publishable form and NPCR published it. The manual addresses all of the important issues that a neighborhood organization

#### ✱ **Collections Guide for History Center.**

A University of Minnesota, Duluth, professor wrote a guide to the collections of the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center. The guide gave the center the ability to disseminate information both nationally and internationally on its resources, and it continues to encourage and aid research about the northeast Minnesota region. The process of creating the guide a project funded by the Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32) helped to forge a valuable link between CCRR researchers and the historical center.

#### ✱ **Work Study Opportunities.**

Since 1991, federally funded student work-study opportunities at colleges and universities are required to allocate



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT



**\* County Impact of Federal Cutbacks.** The federal government is going to play a smaller role in the financing and delivery of public services in the future. Responsibility for these services will affect local governments unevenly across the state. Two professors of applied economics and a graduate assistant outlined the impact of federal cutbacks by profiling current federal spending patterns county-by-county for a wide variety of programs that will be

**\* Are Good Jobs Disappearing?** With the polarization of income in the United States—both the very rich and the very poor increasing in numbers—a concern has arisen that for people in the middle, good jobs are disappearing. A professor of industrial relations and two graduate students looked at what is a good job, who has a good job, and what factors influence a householder's ability to hold a good job in Minnesota. They found that good

**\* Economic Development Assistance.** A spending squeeze is occurring at all levels of government causing every governmental activity to be reexamined. Two professors, one in applied economics and the other in urban and regional planning, analyzed Minnesota's largest programs for economic development assistance: tax increment financing, local revolving loan funds, and the state Economic Recovery Fund. They studied these programs over a number of years while they were heading CURA's State and Regional Research Center. Their focus was on places outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. In a summary article in the *CURA Reporter* in 1995, they concluded that the programs would operate better if they used a regional approach to economic development.

**\* City Taxes for Suburban Projects.** The Elm Creek Interceptor is a large new sewer line serving the suburbs. While the need for it was evident, who shoulders the additional tax burden to pay for it? As it turns out, taxpayers from the city often end up paying disproportionately for such large infrastructure projects, even though the project benefits those living in the suburbs. CURA supported a graduate student's study of issues related to the disparity between suburban and urban taxation and the benefits received. The study was included in a report presented by the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, and released to the public. It increased public pressure for officials to find some mechanism to create a more equitable ratio of taxes paid and benefits received. In the case of this interceptor, the suburbs which it serves negotiated with the Metropolitan Council to provide more affordable suburban housing as a tradeoff.

**\* Idle Youth.** A University of Minnesota professor of industrial relations analyzed 1980 and 1990 census data to determine the true percentage of fifteen- to twenty-five-year-old Minnesotans who did not attend school



cut—from retirement and disability payments to Medicaid to low income housing assistance. Local public officials are receiving notification of the potential impacts in their county and an article about the county profiles appeared recently in the *CURA Reporter*. In addition, local extension agents will be trained about federal budget issues and new analytic tools for assessing the total impact of federal cutbacks on the state will be developed. The project is a joint project of CURA, the Minnesota Extension Service, and the Agricultural Experiment Station.

jobs have not disappeared, though a sizable number of households were adversely affected during the 1980s. Both race and sex have a significant impact on a householder's ability to acquire a good job. Asians, in particular, suffered declines at all income levels during the 1980s. Householders in the metropolitan area have a much better chance of acquiring a good job than those outstate. Also favored are people in white collar occupations. Earnings from a job are markedly better with each additional year of education that a householder has. The study was published as part of the series *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*, and also appeared in summary form in the *CURA Reporter*.



or work. His study showed that the numbers of these "idle youth" dropped from 8 percent to 6 percent over the course of the decade. An article about the study will appear in the *CURA Reporter* this year. Subsequently, the professor received a \$250,000 grant from the Northwest Area Foundation to determine the individual, family, and community factors affecting the educational success and economic well-being of young adults in St. Paul.

#### ✱ **Financing Quality Child Care.**

The Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals is an organization of child care workers and advocates. It has embarked on a long term strategy to move Minnesota in the direction of "universalizing" the child care delivery system by establishing a funding system that is economically able to address issues of quality child care, provider compensation, and affordability. A graduate student supported by CURA conducted a literature search to see what national and state studies have concluded concerning the relationship between quality child care and wages. At root, the studies clarified the impact of economic forces on child care and the impact of child care on the economy. The graduate student also created a handbook based on her research that is currently being used as a basis for discussions on the economics of child care. The alliance hopes that these discussions will result in new legislation in Minnesota. Copies of the handbook (*A Primer: Understanding the Child Care Trilemma from an Economic Perspective*) may be purchased from the alliance's Minneapolis offices.

#### ✱ **Geography of Employee-Owned Businesses.**

Employee ownership of local companies is being promoted as a means of stabilization and preventing de-industrialization. CURA is supporting the work of a graduate student who is tracking the spread of employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) through the U.S. economy between 1981 and 1991. Using data tapes from the Department of Labor as well as interviews with executives whose businesses have adopted ESOPs, the study hopes to learn what factors affect the spread of ESOPs. Firm size, economic sector, and various demographic characteristics of the region will

be examined. The role of business networks and the actual decision-making process will also be studied. Results of the study will appear in the *CURA Reporter*.

#### ✱ **Air Cargo and the State Economy.**

Air cargo accounts for a growing proportion of commercial transportation. Its use has revolutionized traditional manufacturing in many sectors of the economy, facilitating the production of "world cars" and other goods which draw labor and component parts from regions remote to the market. The competition for air freight



handling advantages is brisk among rival cities. Where does Minnesota stand in this competition? CURA is supporting a graduate student to examine the air freight tonnage passing through Minneapolis and St. Paul in comparison to other air hubs across the country. She will look at which industries use air freight and at what stage of production. The study has direct implications for the Minnesota economy. Results will be published in the *CURA Reporter*.

✱ **Income and Poverty.** An analysis of the 1990 Census exploded some myths about Minnesota as well as highlighting changes over the past decade. The "disappearing" middle class is alive and well, better off than it was in 1980. But the improvement comes because women and men are spending more time in the workplace and less with their families. Minnesota's poorest households are worse off than a decade ago. Outstate Minnesota is falling behind the metro area. Minnesota is still well above national norms for income, but is becoming less so. Poverty rates are higher for minority groups than for whites, but in every minority group at least 40 percent are middle class or higher and most groups seem to be catching up with the white income levels, though slowly. This study was published as the first in a series of CURA studies on *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*. It also appeared in an abbreviated form in the *CURA Reporter*.

#### ✱ **World Tourism Organization.**

CURA joins with others at the University in supporting the University of Minnesota's Tourism Center in becoming a designated training center for the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The WTO is part of the United Nations, and primarily helps third-world countries develop tourism programs that emphasize environmental and eco-tourism. Designation as a WTO training facility will expand the center's operations to a global level and will include establishing a graduate program in tourism at the University.

#### ✱ **Employee Involvement in the Workplace.**

Since the early 1980s, the organization of work and the workplace continues to change. One of the factors that seemingly drives these changes is the increased involvement of employees in the decision-making process. CURA supported a professor of industrial relations and several graduate students in examining how these changes are affecting the American workplace. In Minnesota, for example, better than 58 percent of companies report having an employee suggestion system, and 26 percent report having employee stock ownership plans. Nationally, such figures have increased several times since the early 1980s. The initial seed grant from CURA led to an additional





\$60,000 from the Sloan Foundation. Two Ph.D. theses have already been accepted based on this work and three more are in preparation. A *CURA Reporter* article will summarize the findings.

**★ Tourism and the International Wolf Center.** The International Wolf Center opened in Ely, Minnesota in 1993, seeking to educate the public about wolf ecology by attracting tourists to its programs and displays. CURA supported a graduate student who surveyed visitors to the center and visitors to Ely to see what kind of success the center is having. He found that the center is drawing new tourists to the area and added about \$3 million dollars to the local economy in 1995. His report, published in the *CURA Reporter*, included suggestions for increasing the center's ongoing popularity.

**★ Evaluating Village Banking.** In 1994 the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA USA) launched two peer lending pilot programs, one in rural Faribault, Minnesota and the other in Washington, D.C. The programs are based on the successful "village banking" methodology, which has helped more than 50,000 entrepreneurs in fourteen countries start and

grow their own micro-businesses. Entrepreneurs set up associations, and FINCA provides money to fund the members' projects that the association thinks have the most potential. CURA supported a graduate student to evaluate the pilot program in Faribault. The student created a survey, analyzed the results, produced a report, and participated in post-evaluation strategy meetings. By all accounts the FINCA program is a strong one, with new associations recently established in Bemidji, Crookston, Albert Lea, Alexandria, and Marshall.

**★ Poverty in Minnesota.** A professor of industrial relations took a deeper look at those in poverty in Minnesota. Using data from the U.S. Census, he found that the amount of money required in 1989 to move all Minnesotans out of poverty would have been \$585 million, or about 1 percent of the state's total income. The variables most related to poverty were not having a job and being a single mother with children. A third of single parents live in poverty. A detailed analysis will be published soon as part of CURA's series *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*.

#### **★ Nonprofit Pension Plans.**

Do nonprofit organizations in Minnesota offer pension plans to their employees? The Pension Rights Project of the Minnesota Senior Federation wanted to know. CURA supported a graduate student who surveyed nonprofit agencies and wrote a report of the findings. The study showed that 62 percent of the nonprofits who responded offered their employees some kind of pension, but for organizations where employers made no pension contribution, only 39 percent provided pensions (of employee contributions only). The

study also suggested a correlation between the quality of the pension plan offered by nonprofits and employee quality and performance. It noted that budget limitations were the main barrier to implementing pension programs and it concluded that pension start-up assistance and outside help with pension plan design would make it easier for nonprofits to offer them.

**★ Eco-Industrial Park.** The Green Institute seeks to create environmentally sustainable, community-based models of economic development. CURA worked with them in their drive to create an eco-industrial park in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. The park will house complementary businesses that seek to meet economic needs with minimal ecological impacts and to create, as much as possible, a closed cycle system of manufacturing, where the waste stream of one industry becomes the raw material of another industry. CURA provided a graduate student who surveyed eco-industrial parks under development around the country. This revealed the common barriers, funding, and governance profiles of similar projects that are being developed



elsewhere. To begin the development here, a business site on Lake Street was purchased for redevelopment. A class of design students in landscape



architecture reconceptualized the building site for new uses. Two more graduate students worked to locate potential business tenants for the building. The industrial park, when completed, will create minimal waste and energy demands and is committed to hiring workers from the neighborhood. It is hoped that it will help rejuvenate the local economy.

**★ Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.** Running their own business is a good way for immigrants to achieve economic self sufficiency. Working with the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, CURA supported a graduate student who surveyed the Minneapolis Hmong community in order to gauge interest in business start-up programs. The survey also sought to determine what experience those currently in business have had with similar assistance programs. The results provided concrete data concerning potential entrepreneurs, and combined it with a detailed listing of organizations and programs which could help them establish businesses. The survey also documented, however, a large gap between interested new Hmong entrepreneurs and services available to help start new businesses.

**★ Nursing Shortage.** A professor of industrial relations and a professor of management with a background in nursing teamed up to study nursing shortages in Minnesota in the late 1980s. They found that while higher wages attract nurses to hospitals and increase the likelihood that they will work full-time, they have only a modest effect on keeping nurses in the profession. Nurses with more training (BSNs and diplomas) are more likely to leave the profession and less likely to work full-time than their colleagues with associate degrees. Rural hospitals have the most difficulty recruiting nurses. The study was made possible through a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30) and the results were published in the *CURA Reporter*.

**★ The Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization** (NPCR) program (see page 33) funded a number of projects related to economic development in Minneapolis neighborhoods.



#### **Revitalizing the Southeast Industrial Area.**

The southeast industrial area of Minneapolis is uniquely situated near the intersection of major highways and rail lines. For this reason, it can profitably retain industrial and heavy commercial business that for the most part has moved to suburban locations. But the area needs economic revitalization, environmental cleanup, and an economic link with adjoining neighborhoods. Three graduate students created an overview of existing economic conditions at the southeast site. They surveyed businesses asking about their plans, inventoried polluted sites, and found out what public investments were planned for the area. They identified ways in which projected business activity could be linked to local employment needs. The students helped foster communication between various community groups so that creation of a master plan for the business area could move forward.

**Southside Employment Efforts.** The Stevens Square Community Organization and the Whittier Alliance wanted to increase employment opportunities for local residents. A graduate student examined the recruiting success of one neighborhood employer working with the local community organizations to determine key factors for success. Another student examined regional economic trends that were influencing

the success rates of community groups trying to draw new employers into their areas.

#### **Home-Based Business Association.**

The Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association suspected there were a number of home-based businesses in the area. A graduate student surveyed the neighborhood to determine the number of home-based businesses, their needs, and their interest in forming an association. As a result, a home-based business association with better than eighty members was formally incorporated in 1996.

#### **Improving Employment Opportunities in Phillips.**

A graduate student surveyed business owners in the Phillips neighborhood in order to create a neighborhood job database and to discover what might be done to link neighborhood people to jobs in Phillips. The study showed that many Phillips residents would gladly serve apprenticeships at local businesses as a prerequisite for full time employment. It also showed that business owners needed to be persuaded to take a greater interest in the community and to see the value of employing local people. Recommendations included involving business owners in community activities and creating an employee job fair.



# EDUCATION



## \* Educating Homeless Children.

Both nationally and in Minnesota, the number of homeless families has exploded since the mid-1980s. The public schools face an enormous challenge in trying to educate children from these desperately poor families. Homeless children face significant academic problems. By age eight more than half of these children are already two or more years behind their peers. A professor in the Institute of Child Development, with the help of a CURA Faculty

Research Competition grant (see page 30), explored what works to foster resilience among high-mobility, low-income children. The project evaluated a tutor/advocate program that has been developed by the Minneapolis Public Schools over the past three years to assist homeless children. Two matched groups, one receiving the tutor/advocate help and one without it, were compared. Results from the study have been published in the *Journal of School Psychology* and presented at the Head Start Third National Research Conference. An article will also be published in the *CURA Reporter* sometime this year.

## \* State GIS/LIS Conference.

CURA continues to support efforts to share information and educate Minnesotans about geographic information systems (GIS). CURA staff serve on the committee that plans the annual GIS/LIS conference as well as presenting papers at the conference. Begun in 1990, the conference regularly draws 500 people, and in 1996 it grew to nearly 600. The 1997 conference will be in St. Cloud.

## \* GIS Student Competition.

Students represent the future in any field and should be encouraged. National professional societies interested in geographic information systems (GIS) united to form the International Geographic Information Foundation, which provides financial support for graduate students. A CURA staff member served as trustee on the foundation from 1991-96 and was president in 1994-95. During his term the foundation established two new awards: one for the best student paper at the national GIS/LIS conference (\$1,000) and one for the best proposed research (\$2,000).

## \* Courses on the Environment.

Students at the University of Minnesota need a central source from which they can learn what courses are being offered that relate to the environment. CURA has been publishing such a course guide for more than twenty-five years. Courses are listed by subject area and by department, and additional sections describe special academic programs related to the environment as well as centers that deal with the environment. The 1996-1999 guide lists 523 courses offered by 54 different departments on the Twin Cities campus. The College of Natural Resources joined CURA in sponsoring the new guide, which is also available on their Web site.

**\* Courses on Planning.** The growing interest in creating growth and development that is sustainable in ecological, economic, and social terms has brought new students to the field of planning at the University of Minnesota. Students all across campus have needed a central listing of courses related to urban and regional planning. CURA worked with the Humphrey Institute to prepare a comprehensive list of such courses organized by both subject area and department. The list, including classes in thirty-six University departments, is available on the Humphrey Institute's Web page.





### ★ Hispanic Youth Adjustment.

Hispanics are the fastest growing minority in the United States. In Minnesota they are already the largest ethnic minority. About half are less than twenty-two years old. Almost half drop out of high school and only 2 percent go on to postsecondary education. With a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), a professor of rural sociology explored what factors contribute to the educational aspirations and occupational choices of Hispanic youth. The *CURA Reporter* published an article based on the study, and state legislators and members of the Hispanic community have responded positively to the study.

### ★ University Consortium for Geographic Information Science.

Geographic information systems (GIS) technology and uses keep expanding, but universities nationwide had no means of influencing national research or education priorities. In addition, GIS activities are broadly scattered throughout academia and there was no mechanism for developing group consensus. The University of Minnesota joined three dozen other institutions to form the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS). The University served as the administrative center of operations for the new organization during its development and was home to the group's first national president—CURA's assistant director. CURA also shared the cost of a graduate assistant to help manage UCGIS affairs and to organize related multidisciplinary activities on campus. At the June 1996 UCGIS conference in Columbus, Ohio, the new organization created a research agenda and set the goal of becoming a national presence to broadly influence GIS usage and development. The 1997 conference will focus on GIS education.

### ★ Uprooted Children and the Learning Curve.

Families move for many reasons, some of them improving the chances for educational success of their children. But when families move many times during the school year, the negative effects on their children's learning are often serious. Until last year, Minneapolis attempted to keep school children connected with a single school throughout the school year by

busing. But the district is now moving to community schools and away from busing. At the request of the Minneapolis Public Schools, CURA created a project to study the relationship between family mobility and children's

the same time, parents get the targeted help they need to support their children's education, health, and growth. In September 1995 a conference was held at the University of Minnesota to examine how various partnerships between



test scores. The study is examining reasons behind household moves as well as what changes in public policy might help reduce household mobility and thus reduce disruptions to a child's education. Other sponsors of the joint project are the College of Education, Hennepin County, and the Twin Cities Housing Trust. An article about the project will appear in the *CURA Reporter*.

### ★ Courses on Survey Research.

The University of Minnesota offers many courses that include survey research. CURA's Minnesota Center for Survey Research (see page 31) prepared a guide to all those courses on the Twin Cities campus where at least 25 percent of the primary focus is on survey research. The guide includes course descriptions, prerequisites, quarter when the class will be offered, and the percent of the class devoted to survey research.

★ **School-Linked Services.** For more than a decade schools and social service systems have been searching for ways to collaborate so that children will receive the social services they need to enter classrooms ready to learn while, at

schools and social service systems are going. Have models emerged? Do schools have what they need? Do social services have what they need? What are the problems? What works? CURA joined with the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare in publishing the conference proceedings.



# ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



## ★ **Monitoring Fan Operations at the University.**

Of the roughly 1,500 fans operating at the University of Minnesota, better than 1,000 turn on and off according to a computer program that regulates them. This regulation saves nearly one million dollars a year. CURA supported a graduate student who designed a software program that would tell the Building Systems Operation Center (BSOC) when a fan was operating differently than expected. The new software program allows problems to be quickly isolated and located, making the entire fan operations system more efficient. The program saves the University approximately \$70,000 each year. It is so effective that recently BSOC has also used it to make the University's 280 chilled water system units more efficient.

ground aquifers. Computer models of groundwater movements are helpful. With the aid of a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), a professor of civil engineering and two graduate students developed an improved modeling formula for measuring groundwater and surface water interactions. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was able to put the new formula to immediate use. An article about the new model was published in the *CURA Reporter*.

★ **Bicycle Lanes.** The Audubon Park neighborhood in northeast Minneapolis wanted to create bicycle lanes for the neighborhood. An undergraduate student, supported by the Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization program (see page 33),

based on linking bicycle lanes in the neighborhood with bike lanes in other parts of the city. Construction of the lanes began in 1996 and will be completed this year.

## ★ **Landscape Ecology Conference.**

The tenth annual United States Landscape Ecology Symposium was held at the University of Minnesota in 1995. The symposium sought to promote landscape ecology and specifically focused on promoting the interrelationship of the social sciences, landscape ecology, and design. CURA was instrumental in organizing and funding the conference, which served as the launching point for many of the ecosystem-based approaches to land management being used by federal and state agencies today.

## ★ **Fertilizing Metropolitan**

**Lawns.** Excessive use of fertilizers in the Twin Cities (especially phosphorous) threatens to contaminate surface and groundwaters. CURA continues to fund research that will establish the lowest fertilizer application rate that will not reduce lawn quality. Major soil groups are being mapped in the metro area and recommendations developed for each group. This project grew out of our earlier study funded by one of CURA's Faculty Research Competition grants, which showed that both soil and growth cycles must be considered in fertilizing. That study recommended using fertilizers without phosphorous and limiting fertilizing to September and October. Dakota County developed a brochure based on the earlier study that it distributes to homeowners, and an article was published in the *CURA Reporter*. Another will be published in *Applied Turf Research* in 1997. Results of the current project will also be published in the *CURA Reporter*.

## ★ **Tracking Annual Forest**

**Growth.** Good forest management requires current forest inventories. In the past, state and federal officials depended on the Stand and Tree Evaluation and Modeling System



## ★ **Surface Water and Groundwater Interaction.**

As concern for Minnesota's water resources has intensified, so have efforts to monitor the water quality of the state's lakes and rivers and their interactions with the groundwater flowing in under-

helped research the city, county, and state regulations that must be followed when creating bike lanes. The student also surveyed the neighborhood to determine what citizens wanted, drew maps suggesting where bicycle lanes could go, and made recommendations



(STEMS) to predict individual tree growth. But the STEMS model is an old one, and over the years errors have been identified in the system.

Researchers can compensate for most of these errors by using newer data sets with STEMS. Through the Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see page 30), CURA supported a graduate student who worked with the Department of Natural Resources to help evaluate the system as a predictor of growth when used with the new data sets. Part of the student's work entailed comparing STEMS projected forest growth with real forest growth in order to see what level of bias the system has towards such factors as forest type, species distribution, and stand age. The findings showed that despite slight biases STEMS provides less expensive and perhaps better estimates of forest growth than actual measurement would.

#### ✱ Environmental Events

**Calendar.** Many environmental events occur on campus at the University of Minnesota and around the Twin Cities. It is easy for people to miss speakers or events that would interest them. CURA prepares a weekly calendar of events during the academic year that is sent to subscribers by e-mail. The calendar is also available on CURA's Web site.

✱ **Brownfield Sites in the Twin Cities Area.** In the central cities of the United States an increasing number of *brownfield* sites—land parcels that are vacant and contaminated—are being abandoned in favor of *greenfield* sites on the expanding edge of the metropolitan area. Ignoring such derelict sites has serious social consequences for those living near the sites, is wasteful, and may mean that the sites become even more expensive to clean up as contaminants spread. A graduate student in geography is studying the issues surrounding the redevelopment of such sites by examining a sample of brownfield sites in the Twin Cities area. He will look at a number of issues: the scientific and engineering facets of environmental degradation; the ethical issues involved in land use planning; the federal, state, and local regulatory frameworks that impinge on the reuse of brownfield sites; and national and international experience in the planning and redevelopment of brownfield sites.

✱ **Clearcutting White Earth Indian Land.** A large pulp and paper manufacturer manages 3,500 acres of the White Earth Indian Reservation using clearcutting to harvest trees. The White Earth Land Recovery Project contends that clearcutting endangers ecological and cultural sustainability. The two are related because a high percentage of Indians hunt, fish, and use forest assets to live. A graduate student, supported by CURA, researched both the reservation land acquisition process and the environmental impact of clearcutting, herbicide usage, and deforestation. The results of her study serve as source material for White Earth's claims regarding use of the land.

✱ **Expanding the Wild Rice Harvest.** The Chippewa population is rapidly growing and they would like to go back to gathering wild rice throughout northeastern Minnesota, a right granted under the Treaty of La Pointe in 1854. The bands asked the Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32) to help them compare historic

was created to show where wild rice could be grown in a 9,000 square mile area. The project enhanced the relationship between the University of Minnesota at Duluth and the Chippewa bands, contributed to geographic inquiry, allowed the students to work on real projects, got them jobs, and provided an important resource management tool for the tribes.

✱ **Traffic Congestion in Linden Hills.** The Linden Hills neighborhood in Minneapolis voiced concern over the increase in traffic resulting from the commercial success of a neighborhood business district. A graduate student studied the problem and wrote a report proposing several ways to attenuate traffic noise including redesigning the streetscape and diverting traffic. The proposals were presented at neighborhood meetings and the community accepted them in theory. Further meetings will be held to build consensus before the theories are tested. The project was supported by the Neighborhood Planning for Community



wild ricing areas with contemporary ricing areas. A professor in geography in Duluth and two students worked with the tribes. A survey of maps revealed that none showed wild rice areas in the 1850s. Instead, a predictive geographic information system (GIS)

Revitalization program (see page 33). Other neighborhoods have expressed interest in the student's work, still available through the report and the videos prepared for the neighborhood meetings.



# HOUSING



✱ **Subsidized Housing.** Does subsidized housing ruin the neighborhood? A professor of housing and two graduate students studied the impact of subsidized multi-family projects developed by



nonprofit community development corporations (CDCs) in the central neighborhoods of Minneapolis. They found that property values actually go up next to CDC housing projects, that crime goes down, and that the projects add to the stability of the neighborhood. Project residents are more likely to be poor and to be people of color than the rest of the neighborhood and this may be the basis for opposition, by some, to subsidized housing. The study, funded by the Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization program (see page 33), also points to the often huge need for more affordable housing in the central neighborhoods of the city. It was published by CURA, *There Goes the Neighborhood? The Impact of Subsidized Multi-Family Housing on Urban Neighborhoods*, and also featured in a CURA Reporter article.

✱ **Minnesota's Housing.** As part of CURA's ongoing analysis of the 1990 Census, a professor of geography and two graduate students examined changes in housing over the last few decades. Shifts in the housing landscape often paralleled changes in the direction of our society; these changes, in turn, shape the lives we are living. Their report—published as a monograph,

*Minnesota's Housing: Shaping the Community in the 1990s* (the fourth in the series *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*), and in excerpted form in the CURA Reporter—examined selected features of the Minnesota housing landscape, including the affordability of housing in Minnesota, changes in the concentrations of foreign-born residents, housing patterns of Minnesota's minority populations, and the growth of non-family households during the 1980s.

✱ **Housing Options for the Homeless.** St. Stephen's Shelter in Minneapolis receives several calls each week from advocates for the homeless. These advocates consistently have expressed the need for a directory of housing options that will allow them to better serve their homeless clients. CURA supported a student majoring in housing policy to assemble a comprehensive directory that cross-references all pertinent housing options, including emergency shelters, low-rent housing, and referral programs.

✱ **American Indian Home Ownership.** American Indians are more often rejected for homeowners' loans than are whites. This study, a collaborative effort of CURA with the American Indian Research and Policy Institute and the University's Roy Wilkins Center, looked for cultural explanations behind the discrepancy. Creating a new model for studies about Indians, the researchers involved people

from the Indian community, using focus groups and individual conversations, to learn about Indian experiences with home ownership. Home ownership is a concept that is historically alien to most traditional Indians. The stories Indians shared may help the larger community and policy makers grasp this people's reality.

## ✱ **Abandoned Houses.**

Abandoned houses are powerful symbols of urban decline. The level of investment needed to turn such properties around is generally greater than the market value of the property. Can local governments afford to rehabilitate such houses? A professor of housing and three graduate students examined St. Paul's Houses to Homes program, analyzing the fiscal benefits and costs of restoring abandoned homes to prepare them for resale. They found that a rehabilitation that costs the city \$42,000 actually produces \$59,000 in public benefits, though the benefits are shared by different levels of government, not all accruing to the city itself. Their analysis considered erosion of the tax



base, impact on property values, and detriment to private investment, as well as other variables. An article about the study will be appear in the CURA Reporter.

## ✱ **Loans for Housing**

**Rehabilitation.** The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association in Minneapolis was interested in establishing a revolving loan fund to support housing rehabilitation in the area. A graduate student, supported by the



Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization program (see page 33), researched how to create such a fund and made formal recommendations to the association. The loan fund is now in operation. Drawing on the East Harriet research, the student also prepared a neighborhood loan fund handbook. Two workshops were held to present the handbook and it has been distributed widely to Minneapolis neighborhood organizations as an important resource for Neighborhood Revitalization Program initiatives.

**\* Fair Housing Evaluation.** "Fair housing" means equal access to housing regardless of one's race or other characteristics specified in fair housing legislation. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all governmental jurisdictions that receive Community Development Block Grant funds do an analysis of impediments to fair housing within their jurisdiction. At the request of Community Action for Suburban Hennepin, CURA supported a student to compile an inventory of information and reports on barriers to fair housing in Hennepin County. A county staff member joined the project's advisory committee and the county used the



information gathered as part of its analysis for HUD. A similar analysis was done for the city of Minneapolis by the Minnesota Fair Housing Center, also with the help of a graduate student recruited through CURA.

### **\* Analysis of Discrimination in Home Improvement Loans.**

Rejection rates for home improvement loans are higher in areas occupied by predominately non-white and low income people than they are elsewhere. CURA provided a graduate student to assist the University's Roy Wilkins Center in analyzing home improvement loan data in an attempt to explain these differential rejection rates. The results are being used as part of a large scale project called the 50/30 Plan. Initiated by the Roy Wilkins Center and the Urban Coalition, the plan will increase home ownership among thirty-year-old household heads of color to 50 percent before the year 2008. As part of the organizational phase, negotiations with several foundations, banks, realtors, and legislators are currently underway.

### **\* Federal Regulations and Local Affordable Housing.**

HUD now requires that applications for federal housing funds come in consolidated form. The Minnesota Housing Partnership wanted to find out how this new federal requirement was affecting local plans for affordable housing. CURA supplied a graduate student who helped assess the plans that were being drawn up in communities throughout Minnesota; encouraged low income people to participate in the process, showing them how to file comments; helped track who was benefiting from the new consolidated plans; monitored changes in the federal housing policy as it was going through final changes; and worked with national affordable housing organizations to influence the federal

changes. Some of Minnesota's consolidated requests were modified as a result of this project.

**\* Exclusionary Zoning.** Are the Twin Cities suburbs using planning practices and regulatory requirements



that exclude low and moderate income households? CURA supported a faculty member in planning, who teamed up with a graduate student, to examine ten selected suburbs for evidence of exclusionary zoning. They found that current practices do limit opportunities for affordable housing in several suburbs, but that it is unlikely that a legal suit could document exclusionary zoning. CURA published a full report of the study.

**\* Housing Assistance and Choice.** In 1990 Section 8 housing assistance became more flexible, allowing people in the program to move between jurisdictions. Has this allowed low income families to escape living in areas of concentrated poverty? To find out, CURA researchers traced Section 8 household moves in the Twin Cities area from 1990 to 1995 and interviewed people "porting" in and out of the metropolitan area. They found that giving low income householders choice in where they live does not necessarily lead to greater dispersal. The need for large units, public transportation, and convenient shopping often keeps people in the inner city and draws people from the suburbs to the inner city. Results of the study were published in the *CURA Reporter*.



# HUMAN SERVICES



**\* Public Health Reform.** The gulf between the health of the rich and the health of poor has widened considerably in the last few years. In 1992 the Kellogg Foundation launched a major new Community-Based Public Health Initiative in seven locations around the country. The idea was to put public health educators and health practitioners in closer touch with the communities they serve, and ultimately to change the way academic institutions train their health care professionals, and to empower minority communities to play a larger role in public health. CURA evaluated this initiative over its four years of operation with annual site visits, surveys of the costs and benefits, tracking of statistical indicators, and index documentation. The impact on the academic institutions was substantial with changes in course offerings, research focus, employee mix, and even changes in promotion and tenure. Many tough lessons were also learned about collaborations between institutions and the community.

## **\* New Languages in Minnesota.**

According to the 1990 Census, 80,000 Minnesotans "did not speak English very well." Most were new immigrants to the state, refugees from war-torn countries or people looking for better economic opportunities. Communication with these new Minnesotans sometimes demands translation and interpretation services. But what languages? And where are the services most needed? Minnesota State Colleges and Universities asked CURA for assistance in estimating the nature and location of foreign language speakers around the state. Data from the public schools about languages spoken at home, indicates that the number of people not speaking English has doubled since 1990. Among school children, Hmong is the most popular language and three other Southeast Asian languages are in the top five. Spanish is the second largest group among school children, although it is still the largest group

among adults across the state. African and Eastern European languages are growing at the most rapid rate. Most immigrants settle in the Twin Cities or in Olmsted County. An article on the findings appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

## **\* Fact Sheets on Violence.**

The Minnesota Office of Drug Policy frequently received questions about violence that could only be answered by sending a massive report, most of which was irrelevant to the questions. The Department of Public Safety thought it best to find some other method of

and high school and college programs both in and out of the state.

## **\* Mapping for Health Planning.**

Health planners in Hennepin County need to know the location of children on medical assistance. CURA helped fund a graduate student who generated maps showing where these children live. The Hennepin County Health Department is using the maps to identify neighborhoods with high concentrations of children on medical assistance so that the lines of assistance to them can be strengthened.



information delivery. CURA supplied a graduate student to develop a series of brief fact sheets on violence and violence prevention in Minnesota. The sheets respond to the most frequently requested information. They outline the scope of violence in Minnesota—the violence hidden in the shadow of homicides. In this way they serve to increase awareness of the overall problem. The fact sheets have been widely distributed among state legislators, and at state conferences, chemical abuse councils,

## **\* The Health of Prostitutes.**

Women used in prostitution run considerable risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, yet little is known about their health and health care needs. CURA supported a graduate student in public health and social work who interviewed sixty-eight prostituted women about their health problems and experiences in the health care system. She found that these women are exposed to serious physical and emotional health risks every day.



In fact, drug abuse and violence were present in each woman's life and seem to be inextricably linked with the health challenge of prostituted women. A paper about the study was presented at the annual meeting of the Center for Disease Control in 1994 and an article also appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

**\* Evaluating Programs for Disturbed Children.** The Washburn Child Guidance Center has a wide variety of programs serving seriously disturbed children and their families, but it had no way to evaluate them. CURA provided a graduate student to help them develop an evaluation plan. The result is providing a road map for developing evaluation activities at the center and the student developed his master's thesis from this work.

**\* Graduate Student Paper Competition.** The Center on Aging (see page 32), with financial assistance from CURA, sponsors a student paper competition each year which awards research grants to the best graduate student projects submitted. In the past two years eight students have received funds for their projects.

**Heat Waves.** Heat waves are responsible for more deaths than tornadoes and hurricanes combined. Usually it is the low income elderly living in urban areas who are the victims, though these deaths are preventable. A graduate student in geography evaluated the success of St. Louis' public policies, instituted in 1982, to prevent deaths during heat waves.

**Eye-Hand Coordination.** What effect does aging have on eye-hand coordination? A graduate student in kinesiology

compared the adaptations to visual distortion among young and old through a series of pointing exercises performed while looking through a prism.

**Insurance for Prescription Drugs.** The elderly often use prescription medication, but generally do not have insurance coverage for their medications. A pharmacy student compared four insurance plans—Medicare only, Medicaid, private insurance with prescription coverage, and private insurance without prescription coverage—to see what effect insurance plans have on the use of prescription drugs among the elderly. The effects of health status and income were also examined

**Inactivity and Muscle Decline.** A student in kinesiology studied the effect that imposed inactivity, such as bed rest because of a hip fracture, has on the muscles of the elderly. The goal was to develop physical therapy interventions that might help keep muscles resilient.

**Pain in Elders with Dementia.** Are fewer medications given to elders with dementia because their pain is more difficult to assess and they are less able

to complain? A graduate student in nursing compared treatment of elders with dementia and without dementia while they were undergoing surgical repair for hip fractures. Treatment in hospitals and in nursing homes or rehabilitation centers after the operation was examined.

**Inequalities in a Nursing Home.** Conflicts in nursing homes have been viewed as a result of unequal relationships between staff and residents. A graduate student in anthropology studied the influence of external social differences—such as race, age, class, gender, and mental illness—on the relationships of staff with staff, staff with residents, and residents with residents.

**Memory Loss in Alzheimer's Disease.** Tests of memory are often used in diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease. A graduate student in psychology evaluated the test to determine if persons with Alzheimer's truly experience a loss of conceptual implicit memory in the early stages of the disease or whether the tests are simply insensitive to preserved memory.





**Barriers for Aging Actors.** Why are there so few theatrical productions dealing with aging and older characters, and why do so few productions use older actors? Are older adults incapable of representing themselves? Are we trying to keep the stage pure by rejecting the reality of the aging body? A graduate student in theater arts explored these questions through interviews with playwrights, directors, and theater business managers in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis.

### ✱ **Impact of Health Care Reform on Community Providers.**

To what extent are health care services provided by community-based nonprofit groups and how would their services be affected by health care reform? CURA supported a student to work with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and survey their members about these issues. A resulting conference for state legislators, nonprofit leaders, and state officials gave nonprofit health care providers an important forum for underscoring their value to the state and its citizens.

### ✱ **Child Maltreatment, 1991-93.**

Using data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, a graduate student in social work created a database and analyzed the increase in abuse of children in Minnesota, classifying the abuse by type: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment. The findings, recently published by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, show both the growth of incidents and the disproportionate number that occurred among racial and ethnic minorities. The study should aid in the process of allocating resources for child welfare.

### ✱ **Evaluation of Intensive Family-Based Services for St. Louis County.**

A professor from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, evaluated St. Louis County's intensive family-based services. The final report was presented to the county board. It recommends ways to reduce costs for these services while maintaining quality and service delivery. The Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32) supported the project, providing a graduate student who co-presented

results of the evaluation with the professor in charge of the project at a national conference on empowering families. The student used the same county databases to write a thesis on a related subject.

### ✱ **Postmenopausal Estrogen Deficiency and Tooth Loss.**

It is well known that postmenopausal estrogen depletion can lead to osteoporosis, and there is growing evidence that osteoporosis may affect the alveolar bone that supports the teeth, dental implants, and dentures. However, it is still unclear whether postmenopausal estrogen deficiency promotes tooth loss and whether estrogen replacement therapy could be of benefit in this regard. A pilot study supported by the Center on Aging (see page 32) compared tooth loss in two groups of postmenopausal women—an estrogen-supplemented group and a non-supplemented group. The study showed a trend toward increased tooth loss in women who did not receive postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy. Subsequently, the National Institute for Dental Research granted \$49,600 to the faculty recipient of the Center on Aging's seed grant to conduct further investigations over the next two years.

✱ **Neglected Children.** A large and rapidly growing number of children live in neglecting families, but the rule that children must be in danger of "imminent harm" before child protection agencies can intervene prevents them from getting the attention they need.

The consequences of neglect are serious. CURA joined with the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare in publishing the proceedings of a conference held in Spring of 1994 to consider the plight of neglected children and how society can better respond to their needs.



✱ **AIDS Organization Survey.** As a follow-up to a national AIDS policy-making study, CURA provided support to a professor of political science to design a survey questionnaire. The survey went to the primary AIDS service organizations in each state, and asked about such issues as the relationship between the service organization and the state health department, the relationship of the organization to gay organizations, and organizational effectiveness on AIDS-related project goals.



✱ **Foster Care with Kin.** More and more foster children are being placed with relatives. In fact, placement with relatives is now preferred by law. But how successful are these placements? Supported by a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), a professor of social work examined records in Hennepin County in order to compare placements with relatives and with non-relatives. The research, part of a study begun for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, involved multiple phases and included comparisons of case files as well as interviews with child welfare professionals, birth parents, and foster parents. It found that payment disparities in different types of foster care need to be addressed; that data collection and coordination across county and state lines needs improvement; and that changes are called for in the services, support, and training available to foster parents who are kin. An article on the project appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

✱ **Elderly Cancer Patients.** A study of the types of decisions elderly cancer patients have to make with the help of family caregivers and health professionals was conducted with the help of a seed grant from the Center on Aging (see page 32). Interviews with cancer center nurse coordinators revealed five areas of concern: symptom management, use of chemotherapy, ancillary treatments, choice of medical provider, and planning for care at the end of life. The nurse coordinators typically assisted patients and family caregivers by listening to them, granting them permission to alter treatment regimens, clarifying information for them, reassuring them, and helping them establish lines of communication. Elderly patients felt that age should not be a reason for withholding treatment, but that treatment regimens should not dominate their lives. The study results were included in a publication of the National Cancer Institute of Canada and were presented at three national conferences. Faculty from the Center on Aging have met with officials of two HMOs and the Minnesota Department of Health to discuss further funding for the research.

✱ **Reparations for Crime Victims.** Victims of violent crime are often in great financial need immediately after the crime has been committed, yet many are not aware that financial help is available to them until months later when the economic crisis has passed or caused permanent damage. While Minnesota state law requires that law enforcement agencies advise victims of reparations and aid programs, this notification has for some reason proven ineffective. CURA supported a graduate student through its Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see page 30), to work with the Minnesota Crime Reparations Board researching the most effective way to get information about its reparations program to victims. The intern developed an outreach and communication plan for delivering the information and enhancing general awareness of the program.

✱ **Aging in Peregrine Falcons.** DNA damage is thought to be associated in some way with the aging process of many life forms. A research project funded through the Center on Aging (see page 32) examined the mitochondrial DNA of peregrine falcons of different known ages to determine if older birds showed evidence of DNA loss. Some DNA damage was found, but the damage was far less extensive than is typically found in mammals. The preliminary results are stimulating researchers to further investigation.

✱ **Daycare Providers in Phillips.** A graduate student surveyed the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis to determine the adequacy of its child care providers. The student's work, supported by a grant from the Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization program (see page 33), showed that more emphasis needed to be placed on training home daycare providers, who often had no formal training in child care methods. It also found that daycare providers feel isolated and that their client base is more unstable than that of daycare centers. The student's work served as the basis for a formal request to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for training program funds.

✱ **Community-University Health Care Partnership.** The Community-University Health Care Partnership (see page 34) fostered a number of projects where student interns worked on concerns about public health in the community.

**Prenatal Care for Ethiopians.** Health care workers have difficulty giving prenatal care to the growing population of Ethiopian immigrants in Minneapolis. Language barriers and cultural differences in diet are part of the problem. A graduate student worked with the Cedar Riverside Peoples Center to produce a booklet on appropriate health care for Ethiopian women who are pregnant. To prepare the booklet, the student trained Ethiopian women to conduct focus groups with other Ethiopian women. The groups were used to determine culturally appropriate nutritional advice and how to deliver it. The booklets have been distributed to medical staff and professionals in the social services.

**Adolescent Health Issues.** School districts need timely and relevant data on adolescent health issues such as homelessness, violence, pregnancy, and gay and lesbian students. A graduate student, working with the Ramsey County Department of Public Health, developed fact sheets on these issues and prepared the same information for use on the World Wide Web. In preparing the fact sheets, the student discovered that different community agencies had different levels of understanding about adolescent health issues and had developed independent courses of action based on their different understandings. For example, several agencies that promoted AIDS awareness among youth did not know the latest research on the subject. As a result of the student's survey, the Ramsey County Department of Public Health called for a meeting of the various agencies and has implemented a series of inter-agency meetings to exchange ideas, share information, and develop strategies for acquiring further funding.

**AIDS Education for Hispanics.** Persons of color are disproportionately afflicted by AIDS, yet outreach programs to educate them are often culturally inappropriate. A graduate student, working with Hispanos en Minnesota, looked for the most effective way to reach high-risk substance abusers within the Chicano/Latino population. The student found that working through women within the community was the best way to get HIV/AIDS prevention literature and referrals for support services to their family members.

**Manual on Minnesota Minorities.** Cultural differences can present barriers in health care delivery. A graduate student worked with the Center for Cross Cultural Health in developing a manual for health care providers to Minnesota's predominant minority groups: American Indians, African Americans, Chicanos and Latinós, Hmong, and Southeast Asians. The manual offers cultural profiles and sources of more information, including telephone numbers. It was field tested in one hospital, where physicians and medical personnel noted that it made them feel much more aware of their patient's cultural issues and, as a result, more comfortable with their patients. The manual was distributed statewide in December of 1996.

#### **Prenatal Care in Rural Minnesota.**

Community Caring for Children (CCC) is a collaboration of ten community health service agencies that provide public health care to thirteen rural counties in northwest Minnesota. CCC already has a large enrollment of mothers and infants in their program, and uses a letter-mailing system that has improved levels of infant immunizations by age eighteen months. Why were they still missing some of their service population? A graduate student assisted University of Minnesota faculty and CCC staff in developing and conducting a phone survey to find out. The study concluded that a better understanding of client demographics would increase the effectiveness of the letter-mailing system and further increase program awareness and enrollment.

**Peer Training for Adolescents.** The Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC) serves individual and community health care needs in the Phillips, Central, Powderhorn, and Longfellow neighborhoods of Minneapolis. A graduate student, working with CUHCC, talked with adolescents in those neighborhoods and met with community and school leaders to assess which health care needs were most pressing. The student then helped develop a peer training program for the adolescents.

**Preventing Tuberculosis.** Tuberculosis is on the rise in central cities across the country. Effective administration of

methods have not worked for this population. The Immunization Action Coalition offers slide shows to physicians and medical personnel to help deliver the immunization message. A graduate student wrote a script to go with the slide show to help medical personnel present the slides in the community. With the script, the slide show has become even more popular. At least a thousand slide sets were delivered in 1996, and demand for the accompanying script continues to increase.

#### **Directory of Adolescent Services.**

Adolescent services are increasing in numbers and importance, but information about them is not widely



preventive anti-tuberculosis medicines is needed. A graduate student working with the St. Paul Public Health Department reviewed the medical literature to identify patient issues affecting compliance in taking medicines. A patient survey was also developed and current activities of the clinic staff in supporting client compliance were assessed. Strategies for improving patient compliance were then developed.

**Immunization Education in Low Literacy Communities.** Immunization rates are lower in low income communities and especially in low literacy neighborhoods. Traditional outreach and education

distributed or understood in the health professions. A graduate student working with United Way of Minneapolis developed a directory of adolescent services in the Twin Cities metropolitan area that is being distributed to local physicians and health agencies.



# LAND USE AND POPULATION



**\* Reusing the Arsenal.** In 1991, the U.S. Army announced it was vacating the Twin Cities Arsenal site in Arden Hills. The army has a formal procedure for deciding what happens to such land, but a metropolitan based nonprofit group worried that the formal procedure did not allow enough input from non-experts and the citizens most affected by the site plans. CURA, the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and the Minnesota Extension Service funded five graduate students to organize community meetings and summarize technical reports. A citizens Arsenal Cleanup and Conversion Project was formed. Several members of the project and several University faculty were named to the Arsenal's Revitalization Committee to provide input to the army's clean-up plans for the site. The land use plan they developed is currently on hold as the army has changed its plans and retained control of the site. An article about the arsenal project will appear soon in the *CURA Reporter*.

## **\* Planning for Wetland Areas.**

How to manage its wetlands was a major concern of the Coon Creek Watershed District. Some wetlands, perhaps because they provide a home for endangered species, should be retained in a pristine state. Others might be used for some civic purpose, like stormwater treatment. Through our Graduate Interns for State Agencies

program (see page 30), CURA supplied a graduate student to the state Board of Soil and Water Revenues. Together with Anoka County, the group used a GIS (geographic information system) to study and assess options. Ultimately, a

comprehensive plan was developed for future uses of wetlands in the watershed. The work on this project created a methodology for assessing wetlands that is being considered for statewide use by the Board of Soil and Water Revenues.

**\* GIS Data Coordination.** Groups could cut the costliest element of a geographic information system (GIS) if they knew which data they could use. Coordinating data collection and developing uniform data could trim expenses for collecting missing information. CURA helped fund a survey of GIS users in Minnesota that was conducted for the Governor's Council on Geographic Information under the leadership of a council member who is also on CURA's staff. An electronic directory of users and state databases was developed and is available at <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/gc/gisdir.htm>. The survey also identified soil and parcel information as the most important items for new or improved data. The Governor's Council is working to meet these needs.

land acquisition program to improve and maintain urban parks and protect public open spaces. CURA joined with the Minnesota Extension Service and the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in providing a graduate student to work with TPL in selecting "opportunity corridors" among undeveloped land parcels in certain city, suburban, and agricultural areas of Hennepin County. Ownership, land use, and land value patterns were documented and mapped for these areas.

## **\* Changing Commuter Patterns.**

In the last several decades, the Twin Cities metropolitan area has evolved into a complex, multicentered system where people's paths between home and work create ever more intricate patterns. A professor of geography and an advanced graduate student studied the changing patterns for the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the University's Center for Transportation Studies. The number of commuters crossing county boundaries



**\* Corridors of Open Space.** The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit land conservation organization that works to conserve land for people. The Twin Cities is one of twelve cities currently targeted for a comprehensive

on their way to work has tripled in the last thirty years. Boundaries among urban, suburban, and exurban communities are blurring. This increasing interdependency is at odds with traditional perceptions of the city. It challenges



us to find innovative ways of planning for the new complexity. CURA published a summary article of the series of papers produced during this study in the *CURA Reporter*.

**★ Development of St. Paul's Central Business District.** An historical geographer is producing a geographic information system (GIS) atlas chronicling 150 years of change in downtown St. Paul. CURA provided a graduate student to help him link maps and business directories for the years 1886 and 1928. The linkage will allow the system to show where different occupations set up shop in those two years. Several years ago CURA provided start-up funding for this project. The atlas shows where the durable business districts were in St. Paul, and helps characterize land use trends in a way that will help city planners, for example, understand how the dynamic germ of a city moves and grows. An article about the project has appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

**★ Land Development at Lake Vermilion.** The Bois Forte Indian Reservation includes many small land parcels in the Lake Vermilion area. Some of this land has great potential for development. CURA helped support three graduate students over a period of several years to work with planners from the reservation in drafting a land use plan that would allow for development without harming the surrounding natural environment. While still being finalized, the plan is already guiding land use decisions concerning the Lake Vermilion holdings, and currently serves as the basis for a similar attempt at environmentally responsible land development in the Nett Lake area.

**★ Renovating Sackett Park.** CURA collaborated with the Department of Landscape Architecture and the St. Paul Boys and Girls Clubs to renovate Sackett Park, located in an economically depressed St. Paul neighborhood. Under the guidance of the project director from Landscape Architecture, two graduate students worked with neighborhood teens to build an architectural model for the site. For the overall project, the director received a "Leadership in the

Neighborhood" grant. Renovations will be completed in 1997, and several other neighborhoods are looking to the project as a model for what they can do to their own parks and public spaces.

**★ Diversified Farming Database.** Like all occupations, that of farming has changed over the years. Farms, for example, have become more specialized. Yet little is known about how individual farmers make decisions concerning specialization. Why do some turn to it and others not? What are the costs, the risks, the gains? CURA supported a graduate student who created a computer database of farm operations in southwestern and southeastern Minnesota from forms turned into the Minnesota Farm Business Management Association by farmers in southern Minnesota. This is a rich source of farm information which will become readily available for future researchers. The forms date back as far as the Great Depression, but conversion to the computer database will only go as far back as 1977 at this time. The student is using the new data base, as well as interviews with farmers, to analyze the nature of the changes in southern Minnesota agriculture in the last sixty years.

**★ Finding Early Indian Settlements.** Archeologists have long known that the shape of the landscape determines human settlement patterns, and that different land forms are not only suited to different cultural purposes,

they also help shape cultures. A University of Minnesota, Duluth, professor, supported through the Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32), studied land form changes in the area around Red Wing, Minnesota and in Pierce County, Wisconsin. His reconstruction of the landscape as it has appeared over time



will assist in the study of the lives and histories of the American Indians who settled in this area. It will also allow archeologists to better predict the location of settlement sites now buried by nature and time.



# MINORITIES AND DISADVANTAGED



**\* Re-establishing Programs that Set Aside Jobs for Minorities and Women.** Programs that set aside jobs for minorities and women were abandoned after 1989 when the Supreme Court ruled in its *Croson* decision that a program in Virginia had violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. To establish such programs again, communities must prove that discrimination exists in their jurisdiction. Disparity studies are used to do this. CURA served as the administrative home for the chairperson of the Twin Cities Multijurisdictional Disparity Board, who hired a consultant to prepare a disparity study for St. Paul, Ramsey County, and the St. Paul Public School System. The chairperson also undertook a national study of disparity studies conducted in other states and key program elements discovered there that have proved successful in reestablishing more business opportunities for minorities and women. The disparity studies here have shown that both passive and active discrimination exist. Recommendations for remedial corrective actions have been agreed upon by all three jurisdictions. A report on the project was prepared for the St. Paul Companies, who funded the national study, and an article about it will appear in the *CURA Reporter*.



**\* Return of Indian Sacred Artifacts.** Many of the sacred artifacts of North American Indian tribes remain in museums around the nation. Since 1990, however, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires that every effort be made to return sacred objects to their rightful cultural heirs and guardians. CURA supported a student who worked for the Minnesota Historical Society helping research the origins of certain Indian artifacts in its collection. Linking objects to a tribal group, an historical period, and a geographic area is often difficult. The student conducted interviews with a number of community members as an aid in the research. Items were returned to Ojibwe and Dakota tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas.

**\* Intersections of Race and Poverty.** The University Law School's new Institute on Race and Poverty is interested in the impact of concentrated race and poverty in the Twin Cities. CURA supported the Institute in getting a grant from the McKnight Foundation and then supplied staff to help with the research examining the relationship among housing, education, and segregation in the Twin Cities. The study concluded that racial and economic segregation continues to create large housing tracts in the Twin Cities where poverty is the norm. These tracts provide little access to good schools, health care, business or social contacts, and thus create a self-perpetuating culture of segregated poverty. Access to social, cultural, and economic opportunities are essential to alleviating the

national problem of a segregated poor, and to transforming them into prospering citizens living in vital communities.

**\* Attitudes toward American Indians.** Recent conflict with Indians in Minnesota has centered around fishing and hunting rights as well as casino gambling. Have these conflicts changed opinion about Indians across the state? A well known Indian columnist and activist helped design two questions about Indians that were added to the Minnesota Center for Survey Research's 1994 Minnesota State Survey (see page 31). One asked about tribal governments and one asked about the Indian people themselves. The survey found that well over half the people of the state have positive views of tribal government. There are more people who think that relations between Indians and whites are getting better than people who think they are getting worse, but most (44 percent) feel that things are about the same. Results were published in the *CURA Reporter*.

**\* Ghettoization of Black Poverty.** During the 1980s, there was a dramatic rise in concentrated poverty among African Americans living in the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities became one of the most ghettoized metropolitan areas in the country. A professor in public affairs, with the help of a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), examined the change in the Twin Cities as it compared to similar changes in other cities. He attempted to explain the current situation, concluding that in the Twin Cities it is largely a result of in-migration, and he noted public policies that might improve the situation in the future. An article on his study will appear in the *CURA Reporter* this year.

**\* Communiversity Personnel Grant Program** was designed to help organizations run by minorities or serving minorities by making the research or technical assistance services of



graduate students at the University of Minnesota available for short-term projects. During the past two years sixty-eight projects received CURA support. The projects described here illustrate the breadth and scope of the program. For more information about the program, see page 32.

Wilmar, St. Paul, Moorhead, and Marshall introduced state educators to the new curriculum.

**Survey of Pilot City Health Center.** A graduate student surveyed patients for the Pilot City Health Center of North Minneapolis. The purpose was to see

in the association's fifteenth anniversary report in 1996. The document has significance not only as a written record of Hmong women's public activities within a traditionally oral and male dominated culture, but also because it illustrates the degree to which the association has organized, implemented, and managed programs of benefit to the entire community.

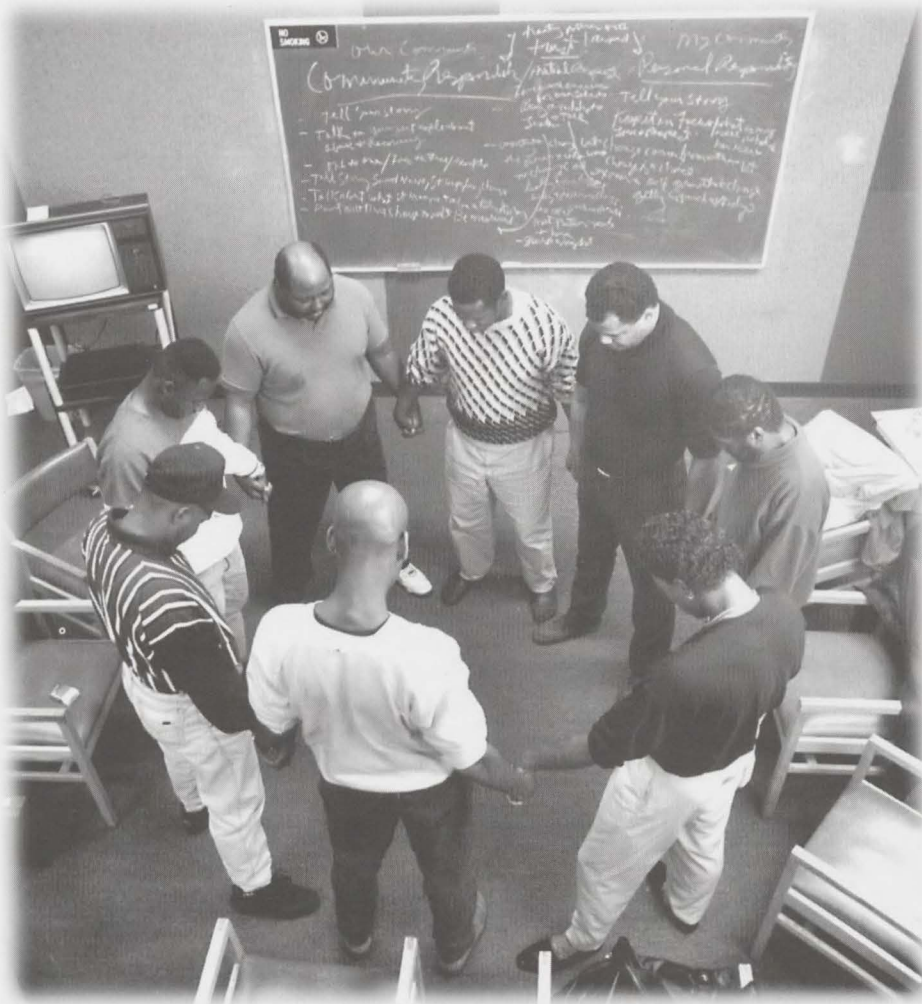
#### **Cataloguing Chinese-Hmong Textiles.**

Contributing to the scant amount of published information concerning Chinese-Hmong textiles, a graduate student developed catalogue worksheets for each of the forty-seven objects located in the Science Museum of Minnesota. Each worksheet contains information on the material from which the textile was made, its condition, method of construction, and history of ownership. The project made a significant contribution to the student's education as well as to the Science Museum's archives.

#### **Evaluation of Self Empowerment**

**Program.** The "Empowerment for Life" program in Washington County helps clients organize their economic and social priorities, and often subsidizes their housing until they are able to gain some economic stability. A graduate student produced a demographic and evaluative report in order to determine the most effective methods for aiding these clients. The report showed that long term case management is extraordinarily labor intensive because most clients have many interrelated problems. It also showed that to succeed at long term management, the program must determine which clients merit further funding, and which do not.

**Hispanic Poverty.** Hispanic Advocacy for Community Empowerment through Research (HACER), a collaborative grouping of members from several community service agencies, sought help to continue its study of Hispanic family needs. A graduate student's research contributed to the publication in both Spanish and English of *The Human Face of Poverty*. The report documents how Chicano/Latino families, in both urban



#### **Creation of a Mexican-American**

**Curriculum.** To meet the need for greater emphasis on Mexican-American history in Minnesota secondary and postsecondary education, a graduate student helped develop *Many Faces of Mexico*. This twenty-four-lesson plan covers events from pre-colonial Mexico to present times. The English language version appeared in November 1995; the Spanish version followed in January 1996. Last summer, five week-long workshops conducted in Mankato,

how well the center met the needs of its predominately African American and Hmong clientele. The dental clinic and the clinic's community outreach programs received especially positive responses. The survey also suggested that employee interaction could be improved, and was the impetus for the recruitment of a facilitator to help meet this need.

**Work of Hmong Women.** A graduate student documented the accomplishments of the Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota. A revised version of her findings appeared



and rural areas of Minnesota, view the impact of poverty on their children.

**Impact of Early Intervention.** Merriam Park Community Services wanted to find out if early intervention had an impact on the later development of at-risk children. A graduate student developed a longitudinal study to help determine any correlation between early intervention and subsequent teen pregnancy, delinquency, and school performance. The results showed that early intervention significantly decreased teen pregnancy and criminal behavior years later, and that subjects from the experimental group also performed better in school. It further showed that when various agencies work together, a longitudinal study can be performed at reasonable cost.

**American Indian Bibliographies.** A graduate student conducted an electronic literature search and compiled annotated bibliographies on various topics concerning American Indians. The seven bibliographies are now published and available from the American Indian Research and Policy Institute. In the future, the institute will send complete sets of the bibliographies to universities across the nation. This will meet the needs of researchers and social service providers because no other compilation exists.

**Database for HECUA.** The Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA) operates experiential academic programs for colleges and universities in the Upper Midwest. These programs place students in locations where they participate in community organization, city planning, and other activities that contribute to social change. A graduate student updated and automated records in order to identify participation trends amongst HECUA's member schools. This data will aid in both planning and recruitment strategies for the future.

**American Indian Artists in Education.** Demand for educational presentations and performances given by American Indian artists continues to grow. As a result, the Native Arts Circle wants to

inform both educators and its nearly 700 artist members about the fine line between cultural property rights and curriculum development. When an American Indian artist teaches students how to make "dream catchers," for example, can the school later duplicate that lesson without the artist? A gradu-



ate student did the necessary research to produce the informational packets the Native Arts Circle now gives its artists who are scheduled to perform or teach in educational settings.

**Trends Among Disadvantaged Students.** A graduate student researched changing regional funding policies that affect minority and disadvantaged students who want to pursue higher education. The student also looked at the changing

demography of these students. The resulting document was used to help the Minneapolis Community College define its recruitment strategies during the fall of 1996. Implementation of those strategies will occur in fall of 1997.

**New Housing in Frogtown.** The Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation (GFCDC) builds new houses on vacant neighborhood lots. A graduate student researched the current ownership and tax status of vacant land in St. Paul and created a data base and a report from his findings. The database and report continue to help GFCDC identify which land parcels are suitable for new home construction. They also serve as a source of information for the ongoing debate between the neighborhood and city council concerning the use of vacant lots.

**History of Near North Neighborhoods.** The Near North/Willard Hay Neighborhood Revitalization Program plan seeks to combat negative perceptions of the neighborhood. A graduate student produced an historical document which looks at neighborhood development from the early twentieth century to the present time. Using this document as a guide, the neighborhood organization will develop a walking tour of the neighborhood, and has already produced a brochure for prospective real estate agents whom they hope will take a greater interest in the area after seeing it for themselves.

**Mixed Blood Theater Study Guides.** Mixed Blood Theater stages live performances highlighting culturally-specific issues. Between September and May each year, actors, actresses, and crew offer 500 performances to more than 170,000 school-aged youth throughout the Upper Midwest. There are seven such performance packages, each complete with its own study guide for classroom use. A graduate student with a background in theater and cultural studies wrote the study guide for "According to Coyote," the most recent addition to the set of programs, and the one which explores American Indian issues.



✱ **Hmong Students in the Workplace.** Hmong have some of the highest poverty rates of any people of color in the Twin Cities, largely because of high unemployment and limited language skills. As their children move through our public schools and into the workplace, what success will they have? With the aid of a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), a professor of sociology is tracking young Hmong as they leave high school in St. Paul and move into the workplace. This project is an extension of a longitudinal study that has already resulted in articles in the *CURA Reporter*, *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. A second article in the *CURA Reporter* is expected.

✱ **Financial Management for the Poor.** CURA evaluated a pioneering project developed by the Ramsey County Extension Service to teach financial management to poor families. The goal was to teach families how to work with the resources available to them and help them gain a sense of control over their financial affairs. There were numerous signs that the project was successful in doing this. Many people also gained hope by participating in the project. The evaluation was funded through a Communiversity Personnel Grant (see page 32) and the results were published in the *CURA Reporter*.

✱ **Anishinabe Caring for Elders.** Families have different belief systems and when one of their elders becomes seriously ill their beliefs play a large part in determining how they view the situation of caregiving for that elder. A professor of family social science, with the collaboration of an Indian social worker, interviewed Anishinabe women who were caregivers for elders with dementia. She found that Anishinabe caregivers are less stressed than white, middle class caregivers. They accept the incurable illness of their elders and see the illness as an opportunity to give back the care they received as children. They grieve the loss of the elder they once knew and seek harmony with the demented elder, the family, and the illness. The study was conducted under a seed grant from the All-University

Council on Aging (now the Center on Aging, see page 32) and an article about it appeared in the *CURA Reporter*.

✱ **Asian American Directory.** The many resources of the fast-growing Asian American community in the Twin Cities are highlighted in a directory published jointly by Asian American Renaissance and CURA. The directory grew out of a Communiversity Personnel Grant (see page 32), which

supportive relationships and trust. In such groups the problem of racism can be openly discussed along with the issue of what battering is doing to the African American community. Minorities are underserved when it comes to treatment for partner abuse and racially-mixed treatment groups need to be reformed with more cultural awareness and sensitivity to racial differences. Results of the study were published in the *CURA Reporter*.



gathered information about nonprofit organizations, associations, and mutual assistance groups that are "by, for, and about Asian Americans." Eighteen ethnic groups are represented, working in 117 organizations to supply eleven types of service—from arts and culture to youth programs.

✱ **Treatment for African Americans Who Batter.** The problem of partner abuse is experienced in all cultures, but African Americans seem to be more resistant to treatment than Whites. A professor of social work, with the aid of a Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), found that African Americans do well when treated together in homogeneous groups where they can break out of isolation, become engaged with the group, show their vulnerability, develop



# POLICY AND GOVERNMENT



## \* Public Policies that Hurt the Urban Core.

The 1990 Census showed disturbing economic and social conditions in the core areas of the Twin Cities—Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the first ring suburbs. At the request of the state legislature, three professors looked at whether regional policies are contributing to the decline of the core. They found that the current practice of averaging the cost of sewer services means that the core cities are subsidizing growth on the fringe; that regional highway services provide significant subsidies for transportation outside the core; and that the central cities are at a competitive disadvantage in attracting new commercial and industrial development. The study was coordinated through CURA and a summary version was published in the *CURA Reporter*.

## \* Reevaluating Probation and Parole Management.

The number of adult offenders under direct supervision in Hennepin County has roughly doubled since 1988 while the number of probation and parole officers remains fixed. The bureau has been forced to formulate new contact standards regarding supervision. The current practice of directly supervising all types of offenders for their entire term is no longer workable. A professor of operations and management science used computer simulations to help solve the problem by predicting the results of three different types of changes that might be made in the system. The simulations contributed to an already intense discussion about the new standards. Results of the simulations caused the county to make a number of changes in their proposed standards before they were implemented. The project showed the professor and his students just how valuable computer modeling can be in solving real world problems. The same kind of modeling may be useful in other areas of the criminal justice system. Juvenile corrections and court operations are facing

similar problems. The study was funded by a Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30) and the results were published in the *CURA Reporter*.

## \* "Consumer Friendly" Services in Scott County.

A bureaucratic government system that survives from the 1930s may offer nostalgic value for some, but not for the citizens of Scott County. A graduate student analyzed the Scott County government to determine what changes were necessary to deliver services to citizens in a more consumer-friendly way. The resulting advisory council, customer feedback, and on-line employee computer network have led to savings and improvements in core services. The project was so effective that it led to a continuing intern program in 1996-97, cosponsored by CURA, the Humphrey Institute, and Scott County.

## \* Environmental Review on Eagle Creek.

The Twin Cities metropolitan area is expanding into neighboring natural areas. State law prevents development of projects that pollute or destroy the environment if feasible and prudent alternatives exist. This is determined by an environmental review process. The process was recently amended to allow for a simpler Alternative Urban Areawide Review in the metro area. A biology professor and an aquatic ecologist, with the help of a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), are analyzing how effective the alternative process is by studying its use by the city of Savage on Eagle Creek, where a development of 490 houses, an expanded

commercial complex, and light industry are proposed. Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Minnesota River, is the last remaining cold-water stream in the metro area that is clean enough to support brook trout. The study includes a biological survey of the area, a survey of residents, and interviews with government and environmental groups. An article about the study will appear in the *CURA Reporter*.

## \* National Review of Police Oversight.

Researchers surveyed the largest city and the capitol city of each state in order to determine their methods of overseeing police activity. Analysis of the data suggests that augmenting internal police reviews with external ones provides a better means for controlling police accountability. For example, an external review helps ensure that when a citizen or citizens complain about police activity, those complaints result in departments exercising a more deliberate and uniform system of due process with its officers. In this way,



external reviews not only increase public confidence in the system by which officers become subject to scrutiny, they also directly influence police management by providing them with





customer feedback. But systems that use only external reviews, as in Minneapolis, are weakened by the lack of insiders' perspectives.

#### ★ **Citizen Survey in Scott County.**

County officials wanted a clearer idea of what citizens thought about government-services in Scott County. A graduate student, supported by CURA, helped conduct seven community forums. These forums were the first of their kind in Scott County and allowed both citizens and employees to participate in the process of directing service revitalization efforts. At the employees' recommendation, new managers now receive training. Following citizen concerns over fiscal responsibility, tax increases are now limited to new construction in the county, and county spending must stay within the limits of the tax levy.

#### ★ **Community Oriented Policing.**

Community Oriented Policing (COP) gets officers involved in problem solving and understanding neighborhood issues—something beyond simply responding to calls for help. CURA and the Minneapolis Police Department surveyed citizens before and after a pilot COP project was initiated in the Fifth Precinct. Citizen views of the professionalism of the department improved slightly during the two years. Many more of those who dealt directly with a police employee felt that their situation was resolved well. Those issues that had been considered large problems two years before had received attention in the interim, and were seen to be less of a problem in the second survey.

#### ★ **Management for Sustainable Growth in the Twin Cities Area.**

The Twin Cities area spreads well beyond the seven counties managed by the Metropolitan Council. Are present government frameworks and public policies able to address the urban growth that is emerging and likely to continue for the next fifteen to twenty years? CURA is supporting a graduate student to work on a large Minnesota Extension Service project which is inventorying existing conditions and trends in the extended urban area from St. Cloud through the Twin Cities to Rochester, and including parts of western Wisconsin. The project, headed by a professor in the Humphrey Institute, is examining the role, capacities, and preparedness of state agencies, the Metropolitan Council, and county and local governments. It is also looking at alternative visions of growth for the area and how institutional frameworks can be realized and policies redirected to create sustainable growth.

#### ★ **Automated Probation**

**Check-In.** The growing numbers of people in this country's criminal justice system are stretching it beyond capacity. One consequence is that case loads for parole officers are too large. A pilot attempt to use technology as an aid was tried in Duluth. The automated probation reporting system (APRS) offers a way for people on probation to check in with their parole officers without actually seeing them. The Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32) supported a professor from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, who evaluated APRS while it was being pilot tested in downtown

Duluth. The evaluation included interviews with probation officers, and a few people on probation, as well as estimates of how much it would cost to create and operate an APRS.

★ **Neighborhood Crime.** What happens after you call 911? The people in three inner city neighborhoods of Minneapolis wanted to know. Through a grant from the Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization program (see page 33), three graduate students undertook a study of street crime in Elliot Park, Stevens Square, and Loring Park. Their report suggested that improvements in cleanliness and watchfulness are effective in reducing crime. It also advocated implementing a restorative justice program. The study helped set the agenda for a series of roundtable discussions between members of the communities and law enforcement officials. The neighborhoods and the court system are now in the process of setting up a restorative justice system. An article about the project will appear in the *CURA Reporter*.

#### ★ **Medicaid Estate Planning.**

Medicaid is taking an increasingly large bite out of government budgets and the bulk of Medicaid money goes to pay for nursing home care. Medicaid estate planning is a practice of intentionally transferring wealth to others in the



family so that the elder qualifies for Medicaid coverage and avoids paying the long term care costs of a nursing home. How prevalent is the practice? What family resources are being used to meet the needs of elders with chronic illnesses like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's? A professor of family social



science, with the aid of a CURA Faculty Research Competition grant (see page 30), studied family decision making about financing nursing home care through in-depth interviews with elders and their families and with the professionals who advise them. She found that most elders do not plan for extended illness. She examined the goals that families have when dealing with a chronic illness, how care needs are being met, and how nursing home expenses are being paid. The public policy implications of the findings were explicitly laid out in a *CURA Reporter* article, and in the full study, which CURA published in 1996.

#### ★ **Evaluating the Department of Human Rights.**

The Minnesota Department of Human Rights came under scrutiny because of complaints that it was not handling discrimination cases in a timely fashion. CURA supported a graduate student through its Graduate Interns for State Agencies program (see page 30) who helped the Legislative Auditor's Office evaluate the department. As the third member of the auditing team, the student examined case files for information indicating whether or not the charge was valid. Of the many recommendations made to the department by the team, the most significant was for early screening of its cases. Early screening would allow the department to give greater priority to those cases most likely to end successfully. The department expects to include screening as part of its reforms.

#### ★ **Indian Planners Workshops.**

The Indian Planners Workshops are regular gatherings of tribal planners and other tribal staff from reservations across Minnesota. CURA offers the workshops two or three times each year. In 1996, tribal planners addressed such issues as the new housing projects undertaken on the Mille Lacs Reservation, the Bois Forte Reservation's efforts to consider environmental factors in developing new housing projects on Lake Vermilion, and the state of cooperation between tribal and non-Indian governments. Two representatives from CURA also discussed an inventory of economic development activities taking place on Minnesota reservations.

★ **New Models for Metropolitan Government.** Regional growth and development are hot topics in the Twin Cities. The metro area has a reputation for offering its citizens a high quality of life, yet increasingly, people are asking whether current growth and development patterns are undermining long-term regional health. CURA joined with the Citizens League, the Metropolitan Council, and the Canadian Consulate to sponsor a series of speakers on how other cities have changed their modes of governing to fit changing needs. The series, *A Tale of Three Cities: Managing Urban Growth*, was very successful. It looked at governance in Toronto, Indianapolis, and Portland, Oregon and was hosted by CURA's visiting scholar from Winnipeg.

#### ★ **Scott County Operations Update.**

Because of an increase in both its population and commercial development, Scott County's Department of Planning, Inspections, and Environmental Health sought CURA's help in exploring better methods of organizational efficiency and improving customer service. A graduate student, supported by CURA, made significant recommendations in four general categories: management operations, internal communications, external communications, and file/data storage. Based on the recommendations, changes in many aspects of service and organization are being made.

★ **Survey of Duluth's Water and Gas Customers.** A professor on the University of Minnesota's Duluth campus surveyed Duluth residents regarding their satisfaction with the services provided by the Department of Water and Gas. The survey, funded by the Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32), revealed a high level of customer satisfaction. It also, incidentally, revealed several hazardous situations in Duluth homes. These were quickly corrected.

#### ★ **Planning Internships in Local Government.**

Communities needing help on specific issues apply to CURA and compete for research or technical assistance supplied by graduate students from the Humphrey Institute's Planning Program. (For a more complete description of this internship program, see page 30) In the past two years, the following communities received assistance:





**Carver County.** The county's Planning and Zoning Department was in the process of improving its comprehensive water management plan. The new plan needed to account for the different needs of the county's rural, urban, and

its comprehensive city plan, including how the city will comply with the 1995 Liveable Communities Act. The act gives incentives to suburbs in metro areas to develop more affordable housing. A graduate student prepared a

demographic and housing study for the area. The report went to the city planning staff to be used in preparing the new comprehensive plan.

#### **Hennepin County.**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) now requires that counties applying for federal housing and community development funds consolidate their many applications. The Hennepin County Development Planning Unit saw this new requirement as an opportunity to both develop long term housing strategies and get citizens publicly involved in the formation of the

local guidelines. A graduate student researched affordable housing issues, wrote drafts of part of the county plan, and solicited input from citizens. The county board adopted the plan and HUD approved it.

**Metropolitan Council.** The 1995 Liveable Communities Act gives incentives to suburbs to make more affordable housing available in their communities. A graduate student helped the Metropolitan

Council implement the act. The intern researched issues related to affordable housing and developed a series of workshops for local officials and builders. Since the workshops, community action plans for building affordable housing have reflected the ideas and recommendations developed by the intern.

**West St. Paul.** The Neighborhood Development Program in West St. Paul tries to keep residents informed about resources available to them for remodeling their homes and keeping up their property. It also offers project ideas to neighborhoods and partially funds them. But to be eligible for these ideas and funds, a neighborhood needs to make a commitment to work together. It must form a resident council and begin team building efforts. A student intern helped create neighborhood projects and assisted with resident councils and building community spirit. As part of her work, the intern developed a 100-page manual which provides information on how to organize meetings and increase community participation.

#### **\* Duluth Police and GIS.**

Geographic information systems (GIS) have the ability to supply useful data to police and other community service personnel. GIS can help identify patterns and trends in criminal activity, for example, and can aid in determining the proper allocation of police resources to any given situation. GIS also has the ability to link police information systems to water, gas, and transportation databases. Such a linkage would be of particular benefit to police and service personnel in times of community crisis. A University of Minnesota, Duluth, professor supported by the Center for Community and Regional Research (see page 32) studied the feasibility of using GIS as a permanent means for enhancing crime analysis and police staff allocation. Based on this study, the Duluth Police Department wants to implement GIS, but is waiting to find the financial resources and for evolving technical compatibility among its information-sharing partners.



transitional areas, and consider such factors as land use and protecting natural resources. A graduate student researched and wrote reports about the comprehensive and local needs of the county. The student's report on transitional areas, in particular, continues to serve as the basis for discussions at ongoing county board meetings.

**City of Eagan.** Eagan was the fastest growing city in Minnesota between 1980 and 1990. Now it needs to update



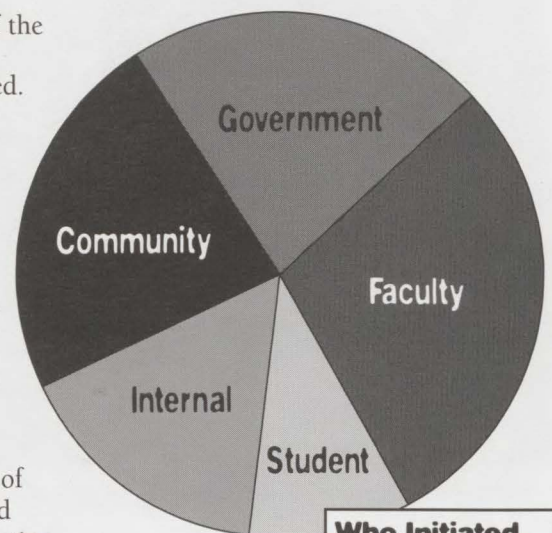


**\* Metropolitan Government.** A visiting scholar (see page 34) from the University of Manitoba studied how metropolitan government and urban problems interact in the Twin Cities. While here, he wrote two chapters for a *Congressional Quarterly* publication, *Home Rule in America: A Fifty State Handbook*, and taught a seminar on metropolitan and regional government. Working with the Citizens League he initiated a series of lectures on how metropolitan areas comparable to the Twin Cities are reconfiguring traditional models of governance—see “New Models for Metropolitan Government” in this section.

**\* Tax Sharing and State Aid Formulas.** Spending public money effectively is a growing necessity as state and local governments face continuing pressure to do more with less money. A professor in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs is examining ways to expand tax base sharing in the Twin Cities area. The Twin Cities has the only operating regional tax base sharing system in the United States—

the Fiscal Disparities Program. Revenues from about 35 percent of the metro area’s commercial industrial property tax base is currently shared. A number of proposals for adding residential property to the system are being examined and the efficiency of the current system is being analyzed.

In the same project, state aid to local governments is also being analyzed. The current system of distributing aid through Local Government Aid and homestead and agricultural credits is being evaluated and alternative methods of distribution are being proposed and tested. The goal is to find a distribution formula that will capture the complexities of various local capacities and needs but still be relatively simple to understand and use. Information from the study will appear in publications of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Brookings Institute, as well as in the *CURA Reporter*.



**Who Initiated CURA Projects 1995-96?**  
(Excludes 64 small or externally funded, community initiated projects)



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS



## \* Faculty Research

**Competition.** Beginning in the summer of 1984, CURA and the University's Office of the Vice President for Research (originally, with the Academic Vice President) have jointly sponsored a competitive program supporting interactive research between University of Minnesota faculty and the community. The purpose of the program is to encourage University faculty

state's economy, education, employment, energy, environment, ethnic groups, housing, poverty, social services, or transportation.

The program provides summer support for faculty on nine-month appointments and graduate student research assistance. The results of these research projects are published in the *CURA Reporter*. Projects completed since 1994 have

been described in earlier sections of this *Update*. Four new awards were made in 1996.

**Electronic Communication in Itasca County.** A professor of political science and a professor of psychology are assessing the effects of an electronic community network that is being created in Itasca County.

### **Recreation in the St. Croix River Islands.**

A professor of landscape architecture is working with the agencies that develop and manage the river to document changes in recreational use of the islands north of Stillwater and

assess what part these changes are playing in the degradation of the river.

### **American Indians and the Schools.**

A professor of education in Duluth is interviewing Indian students about their experiences in school, what has helped and hindered their education, and how they think the schools could

be improved to help educate American Indians.

**Restorative Justice for Juveniles.** A professor of social work, who is director of the University's Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation, is evaluating Dakota and Washington Counties' new initiatives in restorative justice for juveniles. This includes the use of victim/offender mediation using volunteer mediators from the community.

## \* Planning Internships in Local Government.

Local government planners are helped while they provide hands-on learning experiences for graduate students in the Humphrey Institute's Master of Planning in Public Affairs Program. The best proposals from local governments in the Twin Cities metropolitan area are chosen each year to receive an intern. Costs of funding the student are divided equally between the agency and CURA. The agency chooses the intern, who works with them for up to one academic year. This program began in 1990 and has served twenty-two cities and counties. In the past two years five governments received planning interns:

Carver County  
City of Eagan  
Hennepin County  
Metropolitan Council  
West St. Paul

Brief descriptions of the projects are given under Policy and Government in this *Update*.

## \* Graduate Interns for State Agencies.

This program fosters opportunities for graduate students to work outside the University while providing technical assistance and research skills to state agencies. In even numbered years the grants are for the summer. In odd numbered years they are for up to one academic year. Projects are selected on the basis of importance to the state and value of the learning experience for students. Agencies supervise the students and



to carry out research projects that involve significant issues of public policy for the state and that include interaction with community groups, agencies, or organizations in Minnesota. Projects have an applied orientation as well as serving the more basic research interests of the faculty member. Appropriate subjects for research might involve the



share costs equally with CURA. In the past two years, four projects were undertaken for:

Legislative Auditor's Office  
Minnesota Crime Reparations Board  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources

These projects are described earlier in this *Update* under various topic headings.

**★ Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR).** MCSR provides survey research skills and services to people both inside and outside the University of Minnesota. Outside clients typically come from state and local government or from nonprofit organizations. All of the outside clients, and many of the University clients, are working on issues of public policy in Minnesota.

In the past two years, MCSR conducted forty-four major surveys and collected data from over 42,000 citizens and organizations. In addition, MCSR provided partial services for another twenty-nine surveys. In total it served 102 clients (thirty-five from the University and sixty-seven from outside the University).

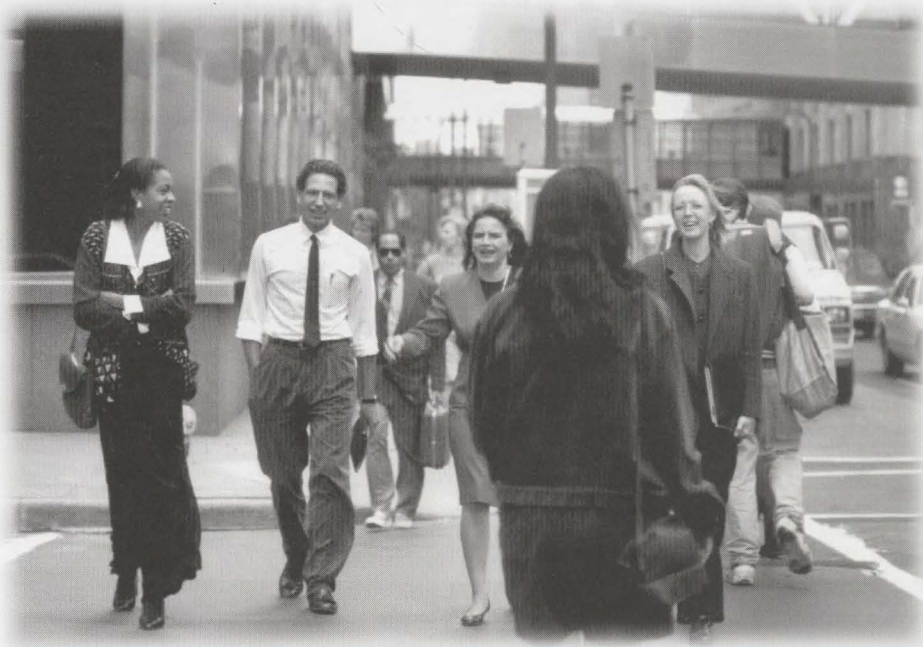
Each year MCSR conducts two omnibus telephone surveys: one of 800 households in the metropolitan area and one of 800 households across the state. Omnibus surveys keep costs low by allowing government and nonprofit organizations each to ask a few questions as part of a larger survey. In the past two years eighteen clients were served by the Minnesota State Survey, and eleven by the Twin Cities Area Survey.

Although MCSR is self-supporting and charges for its services, as part of CURA and as part of a land grant university, it also provides some free survey consulting to individuals and organizations. During the last two years, MCSR provided 191 hours of unpaid consulting to 148 individuals and organizations (ninety-two hours to government and nonprofit organizations, and ninety-nine hours to individuals at the University of Minnesota). As an additional service, MCSR awards a free question on each of

its omnibus surveys to the faculty member with the most important public policy question.

A few of the newer surveys are described briefly:

**Leisure in the Twin Cities.** The Metropolitan Council conducted a region-wide recreation study in 1983 and wanted to update that study and assess changes in the public's needs. Area residents from 3,302 households completed mail surveys which asked questions about local government spending and recreation interests, and evaluated existing facilities such as beaches and bike paths. Respondents also answered questions about acquiring and developing parkland, and a proposed admissions fee for parks. Survey results indicate that the metropolitan parks system needs to place a new emphasis on hiking and walking activities. Several parks are already working on new trail plans.



**Knowledge About Taxes.** Staff at the American Bar Foundation needed to know whether people's income level or personal tax situation affects their knowledge of taxes and their opinions about tax equity. MCSR conducted 628 telephone interviews with people in three pre-selected income groups. The study showed that people in different

life situations view the tax structure in fundamentally different ways. People in higher tax brackets tend to look at whether or not they are getting a good deal, while people in lower brackets tend to compare their own situation to that of others.

**University of Minnesota Administrative Surveys.** The University of Minnesota often needs to collect information for administrative and planning purposes. A number of surveys were conducted by MCSR for University administrators, including surveys of: 1) Duluth's Civil Service employees, conducted for the Human Resources Department on the topic of job satisfaction; 2) Civil Service employees on the Twin Cities campus, conducted for the Civil Service Committee on issues of compensation; 3) student applicants to the University, conducted for the Office of Admissions; 4) students on the Twin Cities campus, conducted for the Minneapolis Student

Union and focusing on identifying services that should to be available in a student union; 5) recent graduates of the Master's in Social Work program, conducted for the School of Social Work to assist in their departmental evaluation; 6) employees at the University, conducted for University Relations to evaluate a new publication,



Kiosk; and 7) Minnesota residents, conducted for University Relations to obtain information about attitudes toward the University.

**Gambling Habits and Low Income.** The Minnesota Department of Human Services wanted to gather information about the gambling habits of low

were also asked to consider whether judges should be retained in office. Results of the retention query, in particular, made contested judicial races predictable: of the six judges with the poorest retention ratings, five were in contested races and these were the only contested races.

communities to initiate projects requiring short-term personnel assistance. Programs that serve minorities—American Indians, African Americans, Chicanos and Latinos, and Southeast Asians—are given priority. If a grant is awarded, CURA supports the extra personnel needed, usually an advanced graduate student. Projects range from staff development to research to evaluation to short-term technical assistance. During the past two years sixty-eight such projects have received CURA support. Examples are provided under Minorities and Disadvantaged in this *Update*.

#### **\* Center for Community and Regional Research (CCRR).**

Located on the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota, the center's base funding is provided by CURA. It encourages and supports social, scientific, and humanities research in northeastern Minnesota. In the last biennium, CCRR supported or published findings from nine projects—which are described in other sections of this *Update*.

CCRR projects link faculty and students with community agencies on research projects of local and regional significance. The community agencies are normally expected to pay at least half of the project costs. Projects provide an opportunity for UMD students to become actively involved in their community while learning specific research skills and general principles of planning and evaluation. Students work closely with faculty members who are ultimately responsible for the success of the project. Major student involvement is essential for project funding.

Project proposals come from UMD faculty. Many have been working with community organizations and see CCRR as a way to tackle important problems. The director and staff of the center encourage these relationships and often direct an inspired professor toward an appropriate agency (or vice versa).

#### **\* University-Migrant Project.**

The University-Migrant Project began in 1994 when concerned Latinos and others initiated conversations among people at the University of Minnesota, migrant farmworkers, and the various



income residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. They contracted with the Center for Addiction Studies at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Subsequently, MCSR assisted with a mail survey sent to 3,000 randomly selected households with projected incomes of \$15,000 or less. Respondents answered questions about their attitude towards gambling, gambling behavior, and the motivation for gambling. The results have helped researchers determine that low income individuals are not a high risk group; the gambling risk is higher for the general population.

**Evaluating Judges.** Every two years the Hennepin County Bar Association asks its members to evaluate judges. The 1995 survey asked members to evaluate all current judges of the Fourth District Bench who were listed on the election ballot in 1996. Performance categories included fairness, legal expertise in civil and criminal cases, case management skills, and judicial demeanor. Members

**\* Center on Aging.** The Center on Aging continues the work of the All-University Council on Aging—which was spun off from CURA in 1994. It brings together faculty, students, and members of the professional community who work with the aging. Its activities reflect a threefold mission of research, education, and outreach. The center is now housed in the School of Public Health.

CURA continues to provide seed funding for research on aging through the Center on Aging. Faculty grants are awarded competitively and, in addition, there is an annual graduate student paper competition, which awards limited research funds to the best student papers on aging submitted each year. Descriptions of research projects funded in the last two years are included under Human Services in this *Update*.

**\* Communiversities Personnel Grants.** This competitive program assists nonprofit agencies and organizations that are based in Minnesota



agencies that serve migrant communities concerning issues that affect the state's approximately 20,000 migrant farm workers. The project became a part of CURA in late 1995. An advisory board made up of former migrants; migrant-serving agency personnel; and University students, staff, and faculty provide direction and guidance to the project staff.

Campus Compact, and CURA, with additional support from Chicano Studies and the Office of Special Learning Opportunities, College of Liberal Arts.

Several projects stand out in the first two years of the U-Migrant Project:



The project focuses on educating the University community and the public about migrant and seasonal agricultural workers and issues affecting their lives. It also seeks to improve their living and working conditions. As part of this effort, it supports the activities of the Farmworker Action Network, a volunteer group that develops educational outreach programs and legislative advocacy for farmworkers.

On the University of Minnesota campus, the U-Migrant Project consists of three main components: a graduate-level interdisciplinary class "The Migrant Experience in Minnesota," a summer internship and research program that places University of Minnesota students with agencies serving migrant workers, and collaborative activities that link University faculty and students with migrant-serving agencies to meet critical needs of migrant workers. The U-Migrant Project is supported by the Minnesota Extension Service, the Minnesota

**Conference on Migrant Farm Workers.** In 1995 the project assisted in organizing the conference held at the University of Minnesota and attended by over 250 people. The president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee gave the keynote address. Discussions on health, education, and housing were led by staff of migrant-serving agencies.

**Dental Clinics.** A collaboration of the School of Dentistry, Migrant Health Service, Inc., and Tri-Valley Migrant Head Start set up dental clinics in Glencoe and Bird Island during the summer of 1996. Twenty-five faculty and dental hygiene students provided dental care to over 300 migrant children and adults. This program will be expanded in the coming year.

**Paid Internships.** The project supported twenty University of Minnesota students who worked with agencies serving migrant workers. The students wrote reports about their experiences and about migrant issues.

**Economic Impacts.** Research on the economic impact of migrant workers on Minnesota's economy is currently underway.

**Service-Seeing Trip to South Texas.** An intensive study and service program in 1997 will take University of Minnesota students to south Texas to gain a better understanding of the area where most migrants coming to Minnesota have their permanent home.

### ★ **Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization (NPCR).**

Minneapolis has eighty-one widely diverse neighborhoods. The city and county have developed a twenty-year, twenty million dollars per year program to strengthen these neighborhoods—the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. In too many neighborhoods the effort to develop a local plan for the new program has been overwhelming. With the help of a United States Department of Education grant, CURA has created NPCR to assist Minneapolis neighborhoods with this planning phase. NPCR is a cooperative program that includes: Augsburg College, College of St. Catherine, Hamline University, Macalester College, Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis Community College, the University of Minnesota, and the University of St. Thomas.

Neighborhood organizations prepare requests for help from NPCR and the best project requests are awarded funds to pay for a student from one of the participating schools. Winning projects are advertised at the participating colleges and the neighborhood organization selects the student who best meets their needs. The student spends 130-480 hours of research time under the direction of the neighborhood organization. The student is paired with a community and a faculty mentor. In the last two years NPCR completed fifty projects. A number of these projects are described in earlier sections of this *Update*.

Besides focusing on the needs of individual neighborhoods, NPCR uses workshops and conferences to share information more broadly across



neighborhoods. Workshops have led to continued cooperative efforts among neighborhoods. An additional aspect of NPCR is that it offers grants for two faculty research projects each year. Projects in the last two years were: the effect of utility company restructuring on utility rates and conservation programs; neighborhood use of GIS (geographic information system) mapping for environmental concerns; commercial corridor planning; and neighborhood management information systems.

In the summer of 1996 NPCR expanded to serve St. Paul neighborhood organizations and community development corporations. With support from St. Paul's Local Initiative Support Corporation, the St. Paul Companies, and the St. Paul Foundation, NPCR awarded student help to five neighborhood-initiated research projects as well as a major study of the fiscal impacts of various responses to boarded-up housing. Early support for NPCR's St. Paul efforts suggest a continuing role.

**\* Visiting Scholars.** For more than a decade CURA has served as a temporary home for incipient projects and visiting scholars. Typically they receive outside funding and work on projects concerning public policy in Minnesota. CURA provides office space and an environment that supports their project. CURA often publishes the results.

In 1995-96 Phil Wichern, professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Manitoba, studied metropolitan government in the Twin Cities. Details on his work are noted in the section on Policy and Government in this *Update*. Previous visiting scholars have included Oliver Byrum, then director of planning for the City of Minneapolis, who wrote a book about planning strategies for mid-sized cities; Ron Kroese, head of the Land Stewardship Project, who researched how agriculture became an industry following World War II; Charlie Warner, who headed the Minneapolis Housing Project, which developed data on the vanishing stock of low-income housing and helped create the

Minnesota Housing Partnership; and Howard Mielke, who created the Lead Toxicity Project, which produced an analysis and maps of the lead content in Twin Cities soils.

**\* Community-University Health Care Partnership.** The Community-University Health Care Partnership was a pilot one-year effort, 1995-96, to explore the interest in partnerships between the University of Minnesota (CURA, Minnesota Extension Service-Hennepin County, School of Public Health) and a number of community-centered public health agencies in the Twin Cities. An initial community-University conference was held in the fall of 1995. As a follow-up, a student placement program was developed, designed in large part on CURA's Communiiversity Personnel Grant model. Nine community agencies were awarded grants which lasted from January through June of 1996. Each agency was funded to hire a graduate student, who worked with them on a project. During the same time, the partnership engaged in several other projects and organized a final conference in which all the agencies and student interns came together and shared what they had learned. The projects are described in the Human Services section of this *Update*.

As a result of this pilot effort, the overall scope of the partnership has been expanded beyond the initial focus on public health. The new program, named U-ACT (University Access for the Community, see below), will continue to be administered by CURA.

**\* University Access for the Community (U-ACT).** U-ACT seeks to establish stronger links between the University and community organizations of color. The program began in the fall of 1996 and is modeled after the Communiiversity Personnel Grants and CURA's NPCR program. U-ACT awards personnel grants to organizations seeking help with applied research, program development, evaluation, or other issues identified by the organizations. Each student hired for the program has both a faculty and a community mentor. Students are given the chance to make a

significant contribution while organizations gain technical or research help for an extended period of time (one University quarter or longer). Information about other University resources is shared on an ongoing basis with the participating community organizations. This new initiative is a cooperative effort growing out of the pilot project, Community-University Health Care Partnerships, described above. Current U-ACT partners include the College of Education and Human Development, the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minnesota Extension Service, and CURA. Two rounds of awards have already been made. The projects that have been awarded grants include:

**The Conflict Resolution Club.** The club, developed by the Roots Program, is an innovative approach to teaching elementary students the importance of laws while at the same time training them in how to mediate conflicts between peers. The program is expanding and two graduate students were funded to lead the program in four St. Paul elementary schools.

**Expanding the Little Earth Volunteer Program.** The resident association of Little Earth of United Tribes, in Minneapolis' Phillips neighborhood, builds self-esteem among tribal families through culturally-specific programs focused on academic learning, careers, and other areas. A graduate student is developing a volunteer handbook and will help design a volunteer program to expand the agenda they offer to residents.

**Preserving Hmong Textile Arts.** The Women's Association of Hmong and Lao has been awarded a graduate student to help create an intergenerational program that will teach Hmong girls the fast-disappearing textile arts of the Hmong culture.



# CURA PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

## PLUS PUBLICATIONS RESULTING FROM CURA PROJECTS



### COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

"Data to the People: North American Efforts to Empower Communities with Data and Information." William J. Craig. 1994. *AGI94 Proceedings*, pp. 1.1.1-5. Birmingham, U.K. Association for Geographic Information.

*Documenting and Interpreting Minnesota Folklore*. Elizabeth S. Bird and David J. Woodward. Center for Community and Regional Research, University of Minnesota, Duluth. 1996. 34 pp.

"Hale-Page-Diamond Lake: A Neighborhood History for Today." Leah Chizek. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1995. 65 pp.

"Immigrants and Radicals in Duluth: An Historical Investigation." Richard Hudelson. Center for Community and Regional Research, University of Minnesota, Duluth. 1994. 74 pp.

*Inventory of Public Policy Research Related to Greater Minnesota: Results of a Survey of University of Minnesota Faculty*. Thomas L. Anding, Barbara L. Lukermann and Margaret R. Wolfe. Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota. 1995. CURA 95-3. 34 pp.

"Jordan Neighborhood Crime Research." Bryan Crystal. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1995. 20 pp.

"Linden Hills Library Community Survey: Final Report." Mark J. Weigle. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. 1995. 52 pp. Available on NPCR's Website at <http://freenet.msp.mn.us/org/npcr/>.

"Lyndale Neighborhood: Health Indicators, Social Research and the Civic Process." Guy Michael Trombley. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1995. 29 pp.

"Neighborhood Resource Center Coalition: Lowry Hill East, Marcy-Holmes, Corcoran, Hale, Page, Diamond Lake, Victory, Northeast Reps." Nolan Venkatrathnam. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. 1994. 38 pp. Available on NPCR's Website at <http://freenet.msp.mn.us/org/npcr/>.

*The Path of Urban Decline: The Twin Cities and Ten Other U.S. Metropolitan Areas*. John S. Adams, Barbara J. VanDrasek and Laura J. Lambert. Second in the series, *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*. Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota. 1995. CURA 95-4. 129 pp.

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"Single Parents Building Community in the Corcoran Neighborhood." Mary C. Zannmiller. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1995. 8 pp.

"The Stone Arch Bridge Continued: A Plan for Sixth Avenue." Ryan Pulkrabek. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1995. 68 pp.

"Telling Stories and Creating Jobs: Community Arts as a Tool for Social Change." Josh Saunders. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1996. 26 pp.

"Thin Sections: Retrofitting the Minneapolis Park and Parkway System." Lance M. Neckar. April 1996. *CURA Reporter* 26(1): 7-10.

*Two Harbors: Perceptions and Concerns for the 21st Century. A Community Survey*. Graham A. Tobin, Lynn M. Goerd, and Susan Bonfigt. Center for Community and Regional Research, University of Minnesota, Duluth. 1996. 119 pp.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

"Are Good Jobs Disappearing in Minnesota?" Dennis A. Ahlburg, Yong-Nam Song, and Scott Leitz. December 1995. *CURA Reporter* 25(4): 14-16.



*Are Good Jobs Disappearing? Evidence for Minnesota from the 1980 and 1990 Censuses*. Dennis A. Ahlburg, Yong-Nam Song and Scott Leitz. Third in the series, *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*. Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota. 1995. CURA 95-5. 36 pp.



"Federal Cutbacks and the Local Economy." Thomas F. Stinson, Barry M. Ryan, and Carole B. Yaho. April 1997. *CURA Reporter* 27(1): 1-6.

"Field/Regina/Northrop Neighborhood: Homebased Business and Commercial Business Surveys." Sacha Z. Peterson. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. 1994. 32 pp. Available on NPCR's Website at <http://freenet.msp.mn.us/org/npcr/>.

"Handbook for Navigating through the Minneapolis Commercial Corridor Process." Barbara L. Lukermann, Mariia V. Zimmerman, and Deb Martin. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. 1996. 35 pp. Available on NPCR's Website at <http://freenet.msp.mn.us/org/npcr/>.

"Harrison Neighborhood Association: Business Development Along Glenwood Avenue." Jason C. Star. Unpublished. 1996. 36 pp.

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"Income and Poverty in Minnesota." William J. Craig and John Tichy. September 1995. *CURA Reporter* 25(3): 1-7.

*Income and Poverty.* John Tichy and William J. Craig. First in the series, *What the 1990 Census Says About Minnesota*. Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota. 1995. CURA 95-2. 166 pp.

"Lake Street Business Profile for the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and the Lake Street Task Force." Terri Peterson. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. 1994. 34 pp. Available on NPCR's Website at <http://freenet.msp.mn.us/org/npcr/>.

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"Southeast Industrial Area Economic Development Study: Phase I and Phase II." Michael Kane, Elizabeth Malaby, and Mariah Goode. Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization. Unpublished. 1995. 93 pp.

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*Courses on the Environment: A Student Guide to University of Minnesota Courses on Environmental Issues on the Twin Cities Campus, 1994-1995.* Margaret R. Wolfe. Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota. 1994. CURA 94-4. 68 pp.

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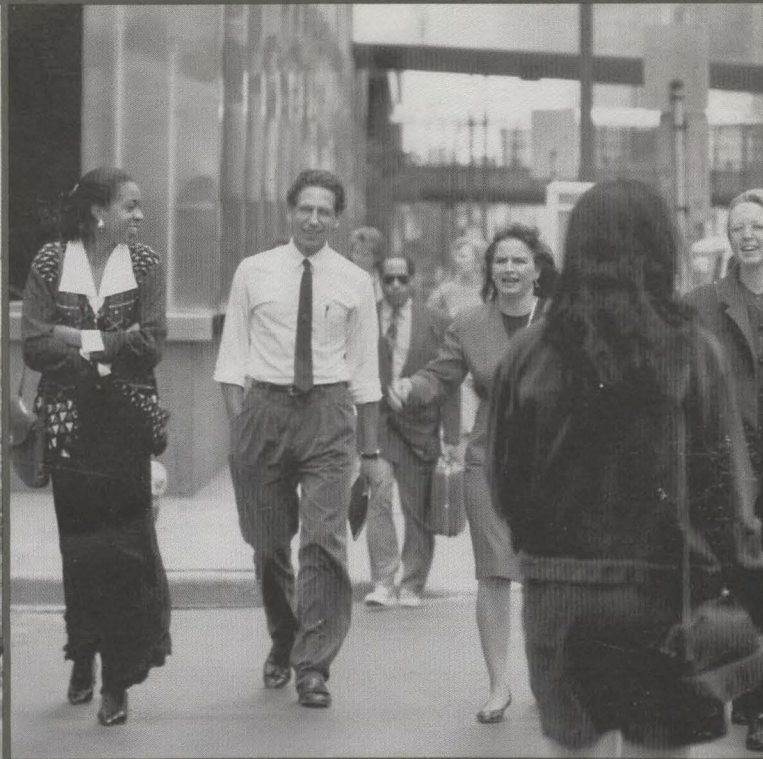
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